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PLUS SPECIAL 16 PAGE SUPPLEMENT

TODAY

10P

Welfare seen as safety net for poor

Middle class state benefits may be taxed

By JILL SHERMAN AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE middle classes are being targeted by the Treasury in proposals to reform the welfare state going far beyond anything so far envisaged.

All state benefits — including child benefits — could be either taxed or means tested under proposals in response to Tony Blair's order to "think the unthinkable".

In what could be the most far-reaching change, the Treasury is looking at scrapping housing benefit, paid to four million people, and its replacement with a flat-rate payment which could result in tens of thousands losing out.

Housing benefit is given to the unemployed to pay rent or mortgage interest. Those on low incomes can also get help but the benefit is reduced as the claimants earn more.

The aim of the proposals would be to limit the role of the welfare state to that of a safety net for the poorest groups with others being required to make greater provision for their health and care costs.

The scale of the review, details of which have been leaked to *The Times*, is far wider than has so far been assumed and goes much further than attempts by the Tories to curb the £100 billion benefit bill.

The Prime Minister has made it clear that he sees welfare reform as one of the most important programmes. Officials have been asked to scrutinise every benefit.

The moves, part of the Treasury's spending review,

are bound to fuel the growing revolt over the Government's plans to cut single parent benefits which will come to a head in a Commons vote on Wednesday.

But the middle classes, some of whom have already been hit by Gordon Brown's decision to scrap Peps and Tassas and charge for tuition fees for universities, are the main targets.

The thrust of the exercise is to remove middle class subsidies and ensure that benefits are given to those most in need.

Taxing child benefit, which was considered and rejected by the Tories, would affect millions of families. Over 6.7 million parents now get payments of up to £11 a week a child. Labour had toyed with taxing child benefit for higher-rate payers when John Smith was Leader and then proposed scrapping child benefit for 16-18 year olds.

Under the plans all families would be taxed, effectively cutting the benefit by 25 per cent because most working mothers who work pay the basic rate of tax. The richest families, where the wife is not working, might have escaped.

To avoid this officials are considering the reintroduction of joint taxation or taxing the husband's income while still paying the payment to the wife. Joint taxation would probably apply to married and co-habiting couples.

Gordon Brown has already signalled that he is in favour of

some integration of tax and benefits and is examining a tax credit for low-paid working families. This would also be easier if couples were taxed together. Although Harriet Harman, the social security secretary was initially opposed to this she is said to be now in support.

The Government has at least two studies looking at pension provision but Treasury officials are now also drawing up a plan to target poorer groups by paying more to those who pay the least national insurance contributions and less to those who pay most. The plan would go further than taxing pensions, which is already done, but would ensure extra payments for the most needy.

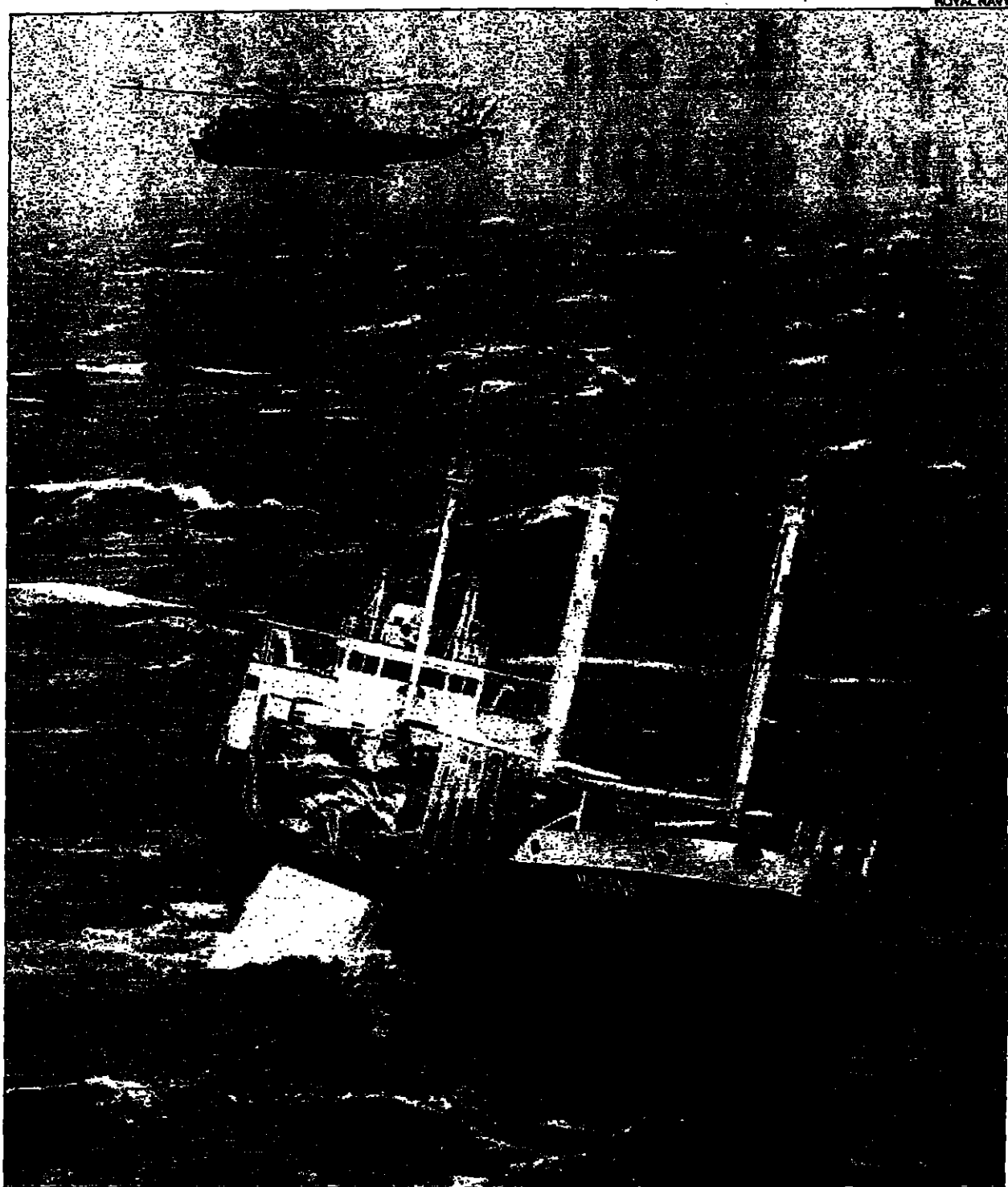
The most controversial proposal is to abolish housing benefit, which is paid on a sliding scale, and replace this with flat-rate payments based on the average housing costs for an area.

Those out of work would have their income support payments raised by a sum equivalent to an average rent, while those working on low income would be given a flat payment.

Tenants would then be able to choose how much they wanted or were able to spend on housing, with the aim of pushing down private rents. Many claimants would be considerably worse off but the

Continued on page 2, page 4

Leading article, page 21



A HELICOPTER from HMS *Invincible* going to the rescue of the crew on a stricken cargo ship in the Mediterranean yesterday (Richard Owen writes).

In an operation co-ordinated by the Italian coastguard at Reggio Calabria, in southern Italy, four

Invincible to rescue

helicopters — two Italian and two from *Invincible* — answered a distress call from the *Megane*, a St Vincent-registered cargo ship which began to sink 80 miles off the coast of Sicily. The coast-

guard said water had entered the ship's engine room at about 8am, and the *Megane* had begun to list badly.

The mayday call was picked up by *Invincible*, which is patrolling in the

area. The Italian authorities said that all 13 members of the crew had been rescued, with the helicopter operating over heavy seas in a force nine gale.

The *Megane*, however, was still sinking last night and had lost much of its cargo of timber.

Antarctic skydivers plummet 8,000ft to death

By DANIEL MCGRORY

INVESTIGATORS are trying to discover why three of the six men making a unique skydive over the South Pole failed to open their parachutes. The survivors could only watch helplessly as the victims — two Americans and an Austrian — plunged 8,000ft on to the polar ice.

The group had paid \$22,000 (£13,000) each for the 90-second jump, putting them among the handful of parachutists to jump successfully over both North and South Poles. All six were said to be "vastly experienced skydivers" who had spent months planning the expedition.

The Canadian firm Adventure Network International, which flew the six to Antarctica, said last night: "This is a terrible tragedy and a mystery as all these men knew what they were doing and had taken every precaution."

Mike McDowell, a company spokesman, said: "The only possible explanations are equipment failure, error of judgment, or some freak happening."

One theory is that the men could have suffered a "white out" and, faced with the vast expanse of ice below them, did not realise how close they were to the ground.

American military personnel who helped to recover the bodies said last night that there were indications that one of the victims' parachutes partially opened, suggesting it may have been opened too late. Conditions for the jump were said to be perfect.

"The survivors and the pilot are just too shocked to tell us much," Mr McDowell said. "We cannot name the victims until next of kin have been informed."

Landscape's lure, page 5

Pressure grows on Robinson

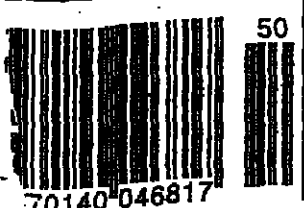
Pressure is mounting on Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General and multimillionaire, to make a detailed statement on his financial affairs, after the discovery that he has connections to offshore trusts in Bermuda as well as to a trust in Guernsey. Page 2

Champion draw

Chelsea, the holders, have been drawn at home to Manchester United, the Premiership champions, in the FA Cup third round. There are four other all-Premiership matches. Page 25

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Labour aides may quit over £6 cut

By JILL SHERMAN

AT LEAST two ministerial aides are threatening to resign over Government plans to cut single parent benefit by £6 a week.

Backbenchers claim that 25 MPs are preparing to vote against the Social Security Bill which has its Third Reading on Wednesday and say that several more will abstain.

The revolt is already overshadowing Tony Blair's launch today of the Social Exclusion Unit set up to address specific problems such as truancy, homelessness and poor housing estates.

Neil Gerrard, Parliamentary Private Secretary to Dawn Primarolo, Treasury Financial Secretary, hinted yesterday that he might step down: "I shan't say anything until I have spoken to Dawn on Tuesday," he said.

Two MPs, Audrey Wise, and Lynne Jones, have co-

sponsored an amendment to the Bill, calling for the cuts to be restored. Dr John Marek, MP for Wrexham, said he would be at the Commons to vote against the Government.

"Last year I spoke up against the measure. My party was against the measure. I really cannot be expected to turn turtle now without good reasons — and the reasons are not there," he said.

Maria Fyfe, MP for Glasgow Maryhill, said she would also oppose the Government on Wednesday.

"If this was a free vote we would win. But there are many, many people who have expressed disquiet who feel reluctant to vote against the Labour Government."

Tony McWalter, MP for Hemel Hempstead, and an opponent of the cuts, said: "We are continuing to fight hard to try to get the Government to change its mind."

Major fury over report on opera

By CAROL MIDDLELEY

MEDIA CORRESPONDENT JOHN Major has made a withering attack on the all-party committee of MPs which published a report attacking the management of the Royal Opera House.

In a letter to *The Times* today, Mr Major condemns the report as unfair, deficient and overstated and accuses the Culture Select Committee, chaired by Gerald Kaufman, of using "the merciless wisdom of hindsight to lay nearly all concerned."

He asserts it is a parody of the report which should have been written.

Mr Major, who says he has spent "many happy hours" at the opera house, leaps in particular to the defence of Lord Chillingham, the former opera house chairman, who resigned last week.

Letters, page 21

Bremner, Leeds and Scotland star, dies

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

BILLY BREMNER, the Scotland and Leeds United footballer of the late sixties and seventies, died yesterday of a suspected heart attack. He was 54.

Leeds, captained by Bremner and managed by Don Revie, dominated English football in that period.



Bremner: "one of the post-war greats"

Bremner, five foot five and with bright ginger hair, was as skilful as he was passionate about the game. "I couldn't wait for three o'clock," he said recently of his days as a player. "There could have been police about to arrest me for murder, but they'd have to wait until 20 to five."

Bremner was taken ill at his home in Conisborough, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire, after a party on Friday evening. He was admitted to the Moredun and Montague hospital, suffering from chest pains and died yesterday morning.

Tony Banks, the sports minister said: "It is tragic. He was one of the post-war greats. He was a giant character. He had a reputation for being one of the toughest guys around. He was a fantastically aggressive midfielder player."

Obituary, page 23

Church takes mission to supermarket aisles

By RUTH GLEDHILL

RELIGION CORRESPONDENT



"Hope to see you in supermarket on Sunday"

SHOPPERS who opt to spend the last Sunday before Christmas at their local supermarket could be in for a spiritual surprise. Instead of the usual versions of *Jingle Bells*, store speakers throughout the land will suddenly ring out the measured tones of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey.

Shoppers at 216 Asda supermarkets will be handed an order of service and invited to sing along to

hymns and carols as they choose goods or queue at the checkout.

The service is an indication that, with the coming of Sunday trading, Dr Carey and the Church of England have finally accepted that if the people won't go to church any more on Sunday, the church must go to the people.

Dr Carey, who recently singled out for praise those vicars who take services in their local pubs and on the streets, will shortly pre-record his message. It will be broadcast to a potential "congregation" of one million

shoppers on what has become one of the busiest shopping days of the year. He is expected to focus on the spiritual meaning of Christmas in the context of a commercial environment.

And if this unusual mix of God and mammon gives him any cause for concern, he can comfort himself with the knowledge that he will reach nearly as many people as traditional Church of England services on the same day. A mere 1.1 million Anglicans now turn up to church in England on Sundays.

Although some supermar-

kets, such as Tesco, have held occasional Sunday school services, and many shopping centres have carol singers during the Christmas period, the Asda venture is thought to be the first of its kind in Britain.

The idea started out as a plan for a carol service in one store, in Gravesend. But when Dr Carey indicated his interest and said he was willing to take part, the decision was made to broadcast the carol service live through every store, via the store's Wigan broadcasting centre.

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Pressure builds on Robinson over offshore trusts

The Paymaster General faces fresh questions over his financial affairs this week, says Chris Ayres

PRESSURE is mounting on Geoffrey Robinson, the multimillionaire minister, to make a detailed statement on his financial affairs after the discovery that he has connections to offshore trusts in Bermuda as well as Guernsey.

The Paymaster General, who is a key government adviser on tax policy, has been accused of hypocrisy after last week launching the Government's £50,000 limit on tax-free savings. There is also concern that there could be a conflict of interest between his financial af-

fairs and his position as Paymaster General. Records show that in 1991 Mr Robinson transferred a personal shareholding worth about £380,000 in Latchers, a family property company, into the International Trust Company of Bermuda.

Mr Robinson is under pressure to reveal how many offshore trusts he has an interest in, and how he funds his lifestyle, which includes owning homes in Cannes, Tuscany and Hampshire.

Mr Robinson's connection to trusts in Bermuda was discovered only a week after it emerged that the MP was a beneficiary of the Orion trust in Guernsey. Mr Robinson's decision not to declare his connection to Orion in the Register of Members' Interests is to be investigated by Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary com-

missioner for standards. There is also speculation over how much money was given to Mr Robinson by Joska Bourgeois, the wealthy Belgian car importer who set up Orion for the MP before she died in 1994.

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, last week added to the pressure on Mr Robinson by questioning the independence of Orion. Mr Robinson claims there

is no need to declare his interest in the trust because it was not established by him, and that it is operated at arm's length. He also says he is only a discretionary beneficiary of Orion.

However, Mr Lilley has pointed out that the trust made complex transactions with Stenbell, a company owned by Mr Robinson, before he became a minister. It later emerged that Orion had bought £3 million worth of shares in TransTec, the engineering company founded by Mr Robinson 16 years ago, while he was a government minister. Also, Stenbell's accounts say that Mr Robinson is a beneficiary of Orion, not a discretionary beneficiary.

Mr Lilley has written to Sir Terence Burns, the permanent secretary at the Treasury who advises ministers on conflict of

interests, to ask whether he knew of these transactions when he advised Mr Robinson.

Although there is no suggestion that Mr Robinson has done anything illegal, his connection to tax-free trusts has already caused the Government serious embarrassment, and has turned the launch of its individual savings account into a public-relations catastrophe. The controversy also comes only shortly after the Chancellor said he would crack down on multimillionaires using tax-havens.

Left-wing teachers in secret talks on new 'super union'

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

LEFT-WING teachers have held secret talks on the establishment of a "super-union" covering schools and colleges, which moderates claim would revive the threat of classroom disruption.

Financial troubles caused by falling membership have caused speculation over the long-term future of the 65,000-strong National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. There has been a steady drift of university members into a rival union, and many activists see the National Union of Teachers as the natural home of their counterparts in further education colleges.

Militant college lecturers could tip the balance of power towards the hard Left in the NUT and lend new support for industrial action in schools. Moderates hold a majority of two on the NUT executive and a fierce battle is being fought this year for political control of the union.

The Left fielded a strong slate of candidates for the five officers' posts in elections held last month. Four former presidents wrote to all London

members saying that they were "alarmed by the incursion of Trotskyist groups into the NUT" and urging them to vote for moderate candidates, who subsequently won all five contests.

Although the Left has dominated recent NUT conferences, winning key votes and capturing the headlines, it has never secured a majority on the union's national executive.

Following an approach by Natthe to John Monks, the TUC general secretary, in July, teaching union representatives met last week to discuss closer relationships and a sharing of some services. Derek Betts, Natthe's senior official, wrote to Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, in October suggesting that the two unions should consider closer links.

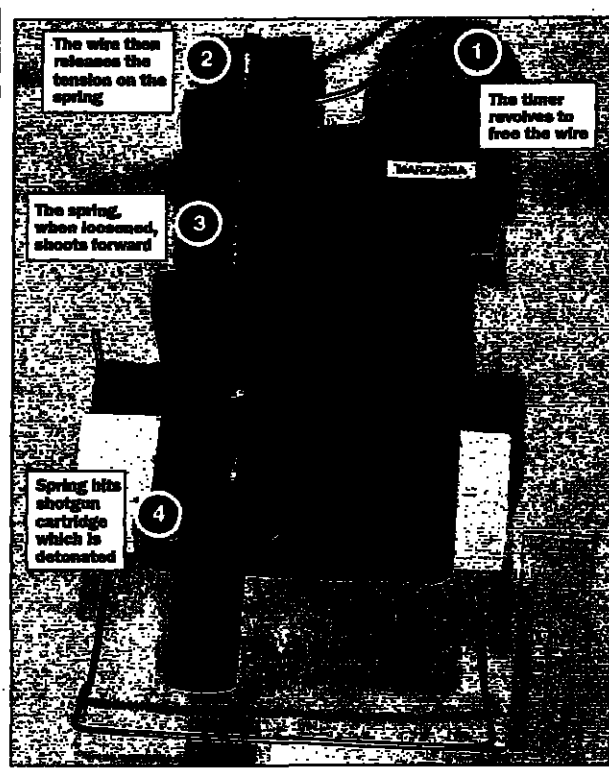
Natthe has fought a series of lengthy and largely unsuccessful disputes in further education colleges. More than 10,000 lecturers have lost their jobs or become part-time.

Two of the last three general secretaries have been voted out of office, while the third resigned under pressure from

the union's executive last May. A successor will be named on Friday, following an election in which three of the five candidates have advocated closer links with the NUT.

Mr Betts, who was not a candidate, acknowledged that Natthe had financial difficulties, but said there were no plans for mergers. The union already had a partnership agreement with the NUT. "There are lots of different scenarios that people paint for the future, but we certainly haven't opened merger talks with anybody," he said.

However, a leading NUT moderate who declined to be named, said: "There is open talk of mergers among Natthe members, who doubt that the union will be viable for more than five years. They see the higher education membership going to the AUT, whether in dribs and drabs or a merger, while the NUT would provide a strong base for the rest. It would be extremely dangerous for schools if that happened because they form the most militant section of Natthe and the Left could dominate the union."



The device hidden in a Sainsbury's bag

Shopping-bag bomber may kill

By TERRI JUDD

DETECTIVES said yesterday that an innocent person could be killed if a blackmailer who calls himself the "Mardi Gra" bomber is not turned in. The bomber has struck in London and the South to try to extort cash from businesses.

On the third anniversary of the first hit, he struck for the 31st time, terrifying a 73-year-old pensioner who picked up a potentially deadly package. To date no one has been seriously injured, but Detective Superintendent Jeffrey Rees said: "I believe someone knows or may suspect who this person is. I would ask them to contact police as soon as possible before some innocent person is seriously injured."

The latest incident was on Saturday afternoon when a pensioner inadvertently picked up a Sainsbury's bag along with her own shopping at a bus stop on the Uxbridge Road, near the West Ealing store. It was not until she returned to her home in Hanwell, West London, that she discovered a 20cm device made up of a timer, spring,

copper tubing and shotgun cartridge. The improvised shotgun matched previous bombs designed to fire when opened.

A team from the Anti-Terrorist Branch and Metropolitan police's Organised Crime Group still cannot offer a clear description of the bomber. They are even reluctant to state whether it is the work of a single man, woman or team.

The bomber first struck on December 6, 1994, when six parcels were posted to Barclays' banks followed by a blackmail demand. Wrapped in Christmas paper they bore the message "Welcome to the Mardi Gra experience". Nine-teen attacks followed. The last, in April 1996, injured three people.

Theories that a disgruntled employee or customer was behind the campaign were scotched when the focus moved from the bank to supermarkets.

Police said that anyone spotting an unattended Sainsbury's bag to report it immediately.

Electronic signature 'will cut red tape'

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

PEOPLE will be able to fill in a tax return, apply for state benefits and renew their car licence from the comfort of home under an electronic revolution to be launched by the Government today.

David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, will announce plans for the first "electronic signature", which is intended to make paper forms obsolete.

Using either an on-line home computer or one of the new digital TV screens, the public will be given direct access to government departments and their agencies.

Instead of filling in a form, signing it and posting it off to the relevant government department, people will have the option of on-putting the necessary data on screen, adding their personal electronic signature and then submitting their application at the press of a button.

The project is being backed by the billionaire chairman of Microsoft, Bill Gates. NatWest Bank and EDS UK Ltd. Mr Gates is helping the Government with its scheme to link Britain's schools to the Internet.

But a report out today from Demos, an independent think-tank, urges ministers to go further. The report, by Lord Freeman, the former Tory Cabinet Minister, says that ministers should scrap their red boxes and use laptop computers in their cars and electronic pocket diaries capable of receiving e-mail messages throughout the day.

MPs should no longer be compelled to file through the division lobbies. Instead, they should be able to vote at remote terminals throughout Westminster using swipe cards. Computer technology could also transform election day, producing an almost instant result if people were allowed to vote electronically, the report says.

□ *Democracy in the digital age.* By Lord Freeman. Available from Demos, 9 Brixton Place, London EC4V 6AP. Price £5.55

Adams will tell Prime Minister to end British sovereignty

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS will use his visit to Downing Street this Thursday to demand Britain's withdrawal from Northern Ireland. "For the first time since 1921 a British Prime Minister is going to hear Irish republicans politely but very firmly tell him that it's time to go," said the first Irish republican leader to be invited to Number 10 since Michael Collins signed the treaty that led to partition.

It was "time for Britain to end its constitutional claim to a part of our country... time to heal the division fuelled by Britain's presence," the Sinn Féin president told republican supporters in County Cork. "Let me assure you that when we meet Tony Blair in London, this week at the top of our agenda is a free, independent Ireland."

There is no chance of Mr Blair ceding to Mr Adams's demand, and he intends to emphasise that republicans must adhere to "exclusively peaceful and democratic means" of pursuing their goal. But Unionists and Conservatives again called on the Prime Minister to cancel a meeting they have labelled a propaganda coup for Sinn Féin.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, said Mr Blair's own security advisers had told him the IRA would probably revert to violence in the new year. He accused Mr Adams of "leading out concession after concession to Sinn Féin" and cautioned that his own party's withdrawal from the talks was "not an impossibility".

Mr Trimble also dismissed out of hand a call by Martin McGuinness, the other Sinn Féin MP, for the two parties to hold face-to-face talks before Christmas. He said Sinn Féin had yet to put forward any serious policy proposals and was not living in the real world.

Andrew Hunter, vice-chair-

man of the Conservatives' backbench Northern Ireland committee and another strong critic of the Downing Street meeting, heralded the breakdown of the traditionally bipartisan approach to Northern Ireland when he addressed the weekend conference of Robert McCartney's UK Unionist Party.

"The Labour Government has adopted policies which we rejected in government. It is also adopting new policies which the Conservatives believe are profoundly mistaken," he said.

□ *The Loyalist Volunteer Force, a paramilitary group opposed to the ceasefire, was widely blamed yesterday for the shooting of Gerry Devlin, 36, a Roman Catholic man with two children, outside a Gaelic sports club near Belfast.*

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, said the murder was sectarian. Mr Devlin was shot four times in the head in the club's car park shortly after 11pm on Friday night. The LVF, a small and ruthless splinter group, killed another Gaelic sports official earlier this year and is believed to have recently recruited high-ranking defectors from the pro-sectarian Ulster Volunteer Force.



Adams: Downing Street meeting this week

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Middle class benefits tax

Continued from page 1
plan could help combat housing benefit fraud now estimated at £2 billion a year. The housing benefit bill has risen from £2.12 billion in 1982 to £11.52 billion in 1996 and 4 million people now claim help.

Other proposals include means testing or taxing the six benefits to help the sick and disabled. Taxing all the benefits would raise £1 billion a year, although some officials favour means testing. Only one of the benefits, disability working allowance is now means tested but this repre-

sents a tiny proportion of the £23 billion disability bill. Incapacity benefit which cost over £7 billion is taxed at the higher rate after a certain period but the other payments many of which go to wealthy claimants are not taxed.

Treasury ministers are also looking at the option of insurance based schemes. The front runner is to replace the £600 million Industrial Injuries Compensation Scheme with an insurance plan paid by employers. The proposals have not yet been approved by the Prime Minister.

□ *Benefits at issue*
Child benefit
Cost: £6.8bn.
How many recipients: 7m get £11 a week for eldest child.
Why change: too many people who don't need it.
Housing benefit
Cost: £11.52bn.
How many claim: 4.7m, who receive from £50 to £75 a week.
Why change: leads to high rents and benefit fraud.
Disability benefits
Cost: £23bn.
How many recipients: 6.5m.
Different benefits up to £64.70 a week.
Why change: soaring costs, up 400 per cent since 1982, too many payments to well-off.
Retirement pension
Cost: £32bn.
How many recipients: 10.54m, who get £64.70 per week (single).
Why change: poorest pensioners need more help.

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The BBC's hottest property has spawned 97 lines, but the ultimate toy will not be on sale this year

Well done. You've finally tracked down a Dipsy. But does it talk?

By CAROL MIDGLEY AND RAYMOND SNOODY

FOR parents who have queued through the night and braved stampedes to secure a Teletubbie toy, there is a new nightmare.

Hot on the heels of the 97 lines of Christmas Teletubbie merchandise flooding the shops, from wellington boots to giant teddywinks, comes the ultimate product — the Talking Teletubbie.

Manufacturers will unveil the latest Teletubbie offering next month in a move that is likely to anger those who have spent millions in the Christmas rush. The Talking

Teletubbie dolls, which have not been made available before Christmas, are predicted to be an instant hit.

The television-derived characters will say "eh-oh", "custard" and "haro" when their stomachs are pressed. The manufacturers will almost certainly be criticised for staggering the release of increasingly sophisticated products to maintain demand.

The Teletubbies' pop song *Say Eh-Oh* is the favourite to top the Christmas charts. BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, will

reportedly make £5 million in one year from Teletubbie sales. Since the first programme was broadcast on March 31, the Teletubbies are close to becoming the biggest property the BBC has ever had, ahead of *Delta Smith*, *Michael Palin* and even *Wallace and Gromit*, the most successful so far.

But the BBC has missed out on a large chunk of potential Teletubbie revenue. Although it has secured the rights for most of the world, Anne Wood, creator of the Teletubbies, has ensured that Ragdoll, her production company, has kept the merchandising rights for the United States, where the market is worth an estimated £12 billion. The first 40 episodes have already been sold to PBS (Public Broadcast Service) in America. Ms Wood originally invested £500,000 of her own money in her creation. She insists she has reinvested every penny.

Under current terms any manufacturer using the Teletubbie name pays 10 per cent of the wholesale price for the lease. Of that sum Ragdoll gets 60 per cent and the BBC 40 per cent.

The programme is currently running in Portugal, South Africa, New Zealand, Holland, Singapore, Denmark and Israel. Last week Teletubbies conquered Japan, winning the Grand Prix award devoted to encouraging "the global progress of educational broadcasting and the promotion of goodwill throughout the world."

Merchandise ranges from playsets to wallpaper borders. St Ivel is still in negotiations with the BBC to produce Tubby Custard and a range of



Mission accomplished: Saturday morning at Toys 'R Us in Brent Cross, and supplies of Teletubbies get through to relieved shoppers



Queues at Brent Cross, London, yesterday

chilled desserts. Golden Bear, the toymaker that has the contract to make much sought-after Teletubbie soft toys (priced between £10.99 and £13.99), stopped taking orders for them on August 31. One million have gone out but the company estimates it could have sold at least three times that amount. John Hales, chairman of the family-owned company that gave children Mr Men, Postman Pat and Forever Friends toys, says he is also working on Teletubbie hug-me backpacks and a full Homehill playset complete with Nook-Nooks the friendly vacuum cleaner from Teletubbietown.

The company is now working on the prototype for Talking Teletubbies, which will be unveiled at the British Toy and Hobby Fair at Olym-

pia in London in January. A spokeswoman said: "They are simply gorgeous. They are slightly bigger than the soft toys we have been making for Christmas. We are using the voices of the actual television actors so children will love them." She added it was not yet known how much they would cost or when they would be in the shops.

Richard Perks, of the retail analysts Verdict, said that, like all merchandise, Teletubbies had a life cycle and the manufacturers were taking care to elongate it as much as possible. "Parents might be depressed about this, but it is the market," he said. "Investors will want a return on their investment. In five years' time no one will want Teletubbies so they have to be careful not to accelerate its life

cycle. If it is being unveiled at the toy fair in January that will put it in the chain for next Christmas."

Christmas toy shortages are nothing new. In the 1930s there was a stampede for yoyos. In 1938, 20 million hula-hoops were sold. Spirograph was launched in 1965, starting a craze for the pattern-making toy that manufacturers could not meet. Parents were fighting over Star Wars figures, first produced in 1978, for Christmas presents. In 1984 the hot property was Cabbage Patch Dolls. In 1990 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles dolls swept the nursery classes. More recently Tracy Island models from the *Thunderbirds* film were the craze. Last year Buzz Lightyear dolls sold out within hours of reaching the shops.

WHAT DO I HEAR FOR A LAA-LAA?

The frenzy to secure a Teletubbie in time for Christmas is such that a touts market has emerged. *Loot*, the free-advertisements paper, carries regular ads from people who have bought the dolls and are willing to sell them at hugely inflated prices. One woman, who wanted £1,000 for the full set of Tinky Winky, Laa-Laa, Dipsy and Po, received hate mail from other frustrated parents. And the nightmare need not end with the dolls: other merchandise includes Teletubbie splashmats, sleepmats, flip-top watch, inflatable roly-poly, baby gym, CD wallet, folder, floor picnic, bubble, bath, pyjamas and slippers.

Disgraced clergyman asks for forgiveness

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

THE Scottish clergyman found guilty of embezzlement yesterday apologised to his former congregation for the embarrassment and hurt he had caused them.

At a service in St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Brechin, Angus, the Very Rev Michael Bunce, the former rector, asked the parishioners' forgiveness for "five years of 'mitigated hell'". In July, Bunce, who denies the offence, was found guilty of embezzling £44,000 from the St Andrew's Businessmen's Association, which he had set up to help the local unemployed. He was fined £60,000 by Forfar Sheriff Court. He had spent the money on hotels, a car, and ponies for his children.

While some parishioners said he deserved forgiveness, many in the congregation stayed away.

Bunce rose during the confession and repentance section of the liturgy to address the congregation of 30, and began by asking for their prayers. He said he was seeking God's forgiveness for the "deep hurt and considerable embarrassment" he had "unwittingly caused this congregation and the business community".

Rarely looking up from his text, he said he had come to Brechin with two aims, to build up the congregation and "place the church on a sound spiritual and financial footing" which would enable it to bring "hope and dignity" to the unemployed in the town. "With your support and the generosity of the Brechin com-

munity, I dare to suggest that both these aims were achieved.

"However, I have to confess that the runaway success of the second goal, by my own arrogance, ambition and failure to demand proper supervision and direction from my spiritual superiors, led me to immerse myself too deeply in the commercial, worldly business of St Andrew's Businessmen's Association Ltd.

"With hindsight, I now realise that all this was beyond my remit and led to dangerous incursions into my spiritual position amongst you and your subsequent pain." Dr Bunce said help and supervision had been available but he had not requested it. "Many of you have been hurt terribly and I have lost my home and ministry. For all this I wish to apologise unreservedly.

"The ambition to achieve

two goals led me into irresponsible actions. I have never set out to be an embezzler, nor to seek personal fortune at the expense of others.

"I was foolish, arrogant and ambitious and sadly have learnt much from this bitter pain and recriminations of Christian colleagues and the loss of my own spiritual reputation amongst you all."

Bunce knelt at the feet of the Bishop of Brechin, the Rt Rev Neville Chamberlain who placed his hand on his former colleague's head and proclaimed the Episcopal Church's liturgy of confession and repentance, which was repeated by the congregation. Bunce returned to his seat and knelt in his pew, beside his wife. He later took Communion.

He has not been defrocked but has resigned his licence to practise, and is unemployed.



The Very Rev Michael Bunce leaves church yesterday

Police use CS gas at football ground

FOOTBALL supporters' groups were concerned yesterday at what is believed to be the first police use of CS spray at a British soccer ground.

Trouble broke out among visiting supporters at the end of Saturday's drawn FA Cup match between Scunthorpe and Ilkeston. An officer was being kicked on the ground and CS was the best option, Humberside police said.

The incident came days after the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs held a meeting with the Association of Chief Police Officers and asked for policemen to be disarmed of CS spray before going into football grounds. Monica Hartland, the Federation's deputy chairman, said: "This sounds like it might have been a wholly exceptional case and we do understand that the police need protection. However, we are concerned that CS spray is being used in a football ground."

Inspector Steve Love said that a group of about 60 Ilkeston fans abused officers who tried to prevent a pitch invasion. They then tried to pull the officers into the stand. The officers quite rightly tried to arrest the ringleaders. One officer, a 24-year-old male constable, was knocked to the ground and repeatedly kicked. The officers' colleagues went to his aid and out of necessity used CS spray in an effort to incapacitate and arrest the offenders. (PA News)

Football, pages 25 & 28-32

Pop stars mark death of Princess

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A HUNDRED days after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, pop stars gathered at Battersea power station to mark the anniversary with a fund-raising concert. Boyzone, All Saints, Peter Andre and former Take That members Gary Barlow and Robbie Williams were among those performing and joining together for a finale rendition of *Let it Be* before an audience of 6,000 at the Diana Memorial Concert of Hope last night.

The concert was not attended by any members of the Royal Family but was

supported by the Palace. It followed news that the Diana, Princess of Wales tribute album, released last week, has already become the fastest-selling compilation record ever.

But while the concert, for which fans paid £25 a ticket, and the CD are set to raise £100 million for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, the weeks before Christmas are likely to be marred by legal battles and accusations of exploitation over her death.

Later this week, lawyers for the memorial fund will seek leave at the High Court to begin legal proceedings

against Mirror Group Newspapers, which wants to make a television film about the Princess, concentrating on her relationship with Dodi Fayed.

Fund directors, already horrified that the roles of the Princess and Mr Fayed have been cast, were further dismayed by news that the £15 million production is seeking an actress to play Kelly Fisher, the model who claimed to be engaged to Dodi at the time of his courtship with the Princess. They are hoping to be awarded an injunction against MGM on the basis that the company did not seek permission from the fund.



Police crackdown forces farmers to drop blockade

FARMERS protesting at cheap beef imports and falling incomes ran into stiffer police resistance yesterday and abandoned a planned blockade of Britain's busiest port.

Dover police arrested five farmers for obstructing the highway and impounded their vehicles. About 20 tractors and cattle trailers turned round a mile from the entrance to the Eastern Docks after the drivers were warned that they too would be arrested if they tried to proceed. One tractor and a cattle lorry got as far as the port entrance but found their way blocked by a police van.

Hugh Richards, a farmer from Biddenden, in Kent, who organised the Dover protest, said: "We had no choice but to call the blockade off and we will not be trying it again. The police used very heavy-handed tactics and said they would arrest us just for threatening an obstruction."

The police defended their tactics, saying that they were no different from those used in the past to deal with animal rights activists trying to stop livestock lorries boarding cross-Channel ferries.

"We are not prepared to negotiate with people over the extent to which they can break the law", a police spokesman said. "We have told farmers that if they break the law, they will be arrested, charged and put before the courts."

A protest at

Dover was

ended by

new tactics,

writes Michael

Hornsbey

Police in Wales and Scotland have allowed farmers to inspect the cargoes of arriving lorries, and browbeat drivers carrying Irish beef into turning back. At Holyhead, on Anglesey, one driver agreed to turn round at the weekend after picketing farmers discovered that he had concealed Irish beef beneath a load of mushrooms.

North Wales police said that they were studying video film of the incident a week ago, in which farmers threw a cargo of Irish beef burgers into the sea. Officers said they would start legal proceedings against those responsible if there was enough evidence.

Support for the farmers came yesterday from John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary. He said on GMTV's *Sunday* programme: "The conservative Party does not condone any illegal action. But we quite

sympathise with the strong stance the farmers are taking because they have been pushed beyond the limits by a Government which has failed to negotiate anything for them, a Government which has given away so much to the European government already without asking for anything in return."

Sir David Naish, the president of the National Farmers' Union, last night appealed to his members not to alienate public opinion by blocking roads: "The dispute is between ourselves and the Government, and not with farmers abroad", he said.

He will make further contact today with Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, but said: "I am only interested in a meeting if there is something to discuss. There is no point in going to listen to platitudes. I just hope the minister realises how enormously serious the situation is, and how desperately worried farmers are about their future."

Irish farmers yesterday demanded that the British Government and police take tougher action against port protests. Hundreds of farmers from Scotland and northern England picketed Stranraer, the main ferry port in Scotland for traffic from Ireland, saying they planned to stay until this morning.



Farmer supporters cheer an announcement that no agricultural lorries will arrive from abroad at Millbay Docks, Plymouth, on Friday night

How the sense of grievance has grown

By OUR AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BEEF farmers are angry because they feel they have had a raw deal from the Government when compared with other sectors of the agricultural economy, particularly dairy farming.

Welsh farmers' sense of grievance is even sharper because returns from lamb production, their biggest earner, have also dipped sharply, leaving them more exposed to the fall in beef prices triggered by the disclosure last year that "mad cow" disease had probably infected human beings.

There are 70,200 beef farms in

Britain, mostly concentrated in Scotland, Wales and north-west and south-west England. Most are relatively small operators, 60 per cent having fewer than 20 cows. Only 14 per cent have herds with more than 50.

In 1995-96, the latest year for which there are figures, the Ministry of Agriculture estimated that the average net income of cattle and sheep farms in hill areas to be £18,200 in England, £18,400 in Wales and £12,800 in Scotland. Incomes on dairy farms were markedly higher, £36,200 in England, £35,300 in Wales and £33,700 in Scotland. In the year since

these figures were compiled, all farm incomes are estimated to have fallen by up to 47 per cent.

"Our latest calculation is that 60 per cent of farms in upland regions of Wales, which is where 80 per cent of our farmers are found and where beef and sheep farming are the main options, now have an average net income of £10,000 or less", Alan Morris, a spokesman for the Farmers' Union of Wales, said.

Dr Cunningham has made matters worse, farmers say, by reducing the rate of compensation paid to farmers for cattle over the age of 30 months,

which have to be culled and destroyed to keep animals that might develop BSE out of the food chain. Compensation has gradually been reduced from about £400 to £500 an animal, depending on weight in May of last year, to a current maximum of £371, with no distinction between elderly dairy cows and much heavier and more valuable cows from beef herds.

Underlying farmers' problems is the strong pound, which has a bigger impact on agriculture than most other sectors of the economy, and which has eroded the sterling value of EU farm subsidies.

Prescott seeks solution to wrangle over climate

FROM NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, IN KYOTO

JOHN PRESCOTT swept into the climate change conference yesterday promising to broker a deal that will save the planet from global warming.

Speaking in Kyoto as thousands of bells were rung across the ancient city in prayer for world leaders and a procession was led from the Kawaramachi Catholic cathedral to the Yasaka shrine, the deputy prime minister said the outline of a deal was emerging despite deep divisions between nations.

Over the weekend negotiators proposed that America and Japan could be allowed to pollute more than the European Union under a scheme known as differentiation. But Mr Prescott said it was out of the question that Europe should be forced to take on more responsibility for halting climate change than other big industrial blocks. "We will not do anything to damage the

competitiveness of our industry," he said.

But Mr Prescott said it was also vital to get an agreement setting legally binding targets for curbing carbon pollution: "We have a responsibility. We hold this world in our hands in trust for our children. I am pushing for victory and refuse to contemplate failure."

The conference, which now hands the final days over to politicians from officials for some solution before the Wednesday deadline, has been stuck on several crucial points. America, whose vice president Al Gore flies in today, has refused to budge from their proposals of merely stabilising gases at 1990 levels by 2010. It claims that acting more drastically now will wreck its economy.

The European Union has been equally fixed on its ambitious target for the industrialised world of 15 per

cent cuts. Meanwhile poorer countries are refusing to offer to back voluntary reduction targets until rich nations agree a deal.

Options which allow flexibility include sinks, where countries with large areas of forests that absorb carbon dioxide, are allowed to count these against emissions from transport, industry and homes. Another could mean rich countries like Britain and America signing a contract with a developing country to instal, say, clean burn power stations or the planting of new forests.

These schemes would count as carbon credits helping the rich country offset its own domestic emissions at a fraction of the cost of doing the same scheme at home. Countries may also be able to count population growth and their economic output or GDP against their emission target.

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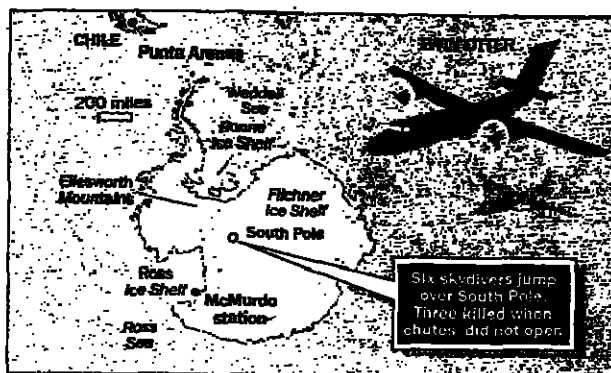
Polar icecaps lured skydivers to deaths

By DANIEL MCGORRY

FOR the six-strong band of accomplished and experienced skydivers, the South Pole represented one of the greatest challenges. The lure to skydive over the icecaps of the great South was irresistible, knowing that only a handful of men had ever dared parachute on to this cruel and beautiful landscape.

All six had jumped over the North Pole, and to succeed at the opposite end of the Earth would have accorded them the right to call themselves part of an elite band of adventurers. Antarctica's remoteness means it remains too expensive and too difficult for most to contemplate making a jump. For eight months they meticulously planned this adventure, regarding the £14,000 fee they each had to pay for a 90-second jump as money well spent.

Mike McDowell of Adventure Network International, who organised their adventure, said last night: "There is no landscape like it — that vast



expanse of pure white terrain and knowing maybe only seven men have ever jumped over this Pole.

"These were not foolish adventurers, but among the very best in their field who wanted to be among a unique breed to jump at both North and South Poles."

As the investigation began last night into how three parachutes failed to open, the experts were asking whether the unusual conditions contributed to the tragedy. The odds of equipment failure of

three chutes were, say the experts, "about the same as winning the lottery twice in a row."

At the Pole the air is thinner and colder so the divers fall marginally faster, but they had calculated the time for their jump. One theory is that they suffered a "white-out". As the entire terrain is flat ice, they could have misjudged how close they were to earth.

"Everything as far as the eye could see would have been white and we will be looking at whether disorientation was

a factor," Mr McDowell said. "It is not known if they were wearing altimeters but they would have known the time of descent."

The temperature was about minus 25C, which is good for this time of the year, and they were well equipped for the cold.

A Hercules aircraft was on its way last night to recover the bodies of the three dead, their equipment and to fly home the survivors whose testimony will be crucial to solving this mystery.

The group had picked their date carefully. The season to visit the South Pole — to mountaineer, ski or just watch the penguins as scores do in increasing numbers each year — runs from October to January. December is favourable if seeking as little wind as possible, which is crucial for a sky dive.

Mr McDowell said: "In 1992 we successfully took a Norwegian to jump over the South Pole. Apart from him, only American military pairs have done it in 1956, 1969 and 1972."



Chinstrap penguins in Antarctica. "There is no landscape like it — that vast expanse of pure white terrain"

Human error causes 90% of accidents

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

HUMAN error is the likeliest cause of the skydiving deaths in Antarctica. More than 90 per cent of the deaths recorded in a global survey on parachuting in 1991 were the result of human error.

The commonest error is failing to pull the cord to open the parachute or pulling it too late — the "low/no pull" accident. It is the only category of accident to which experienced skydivers are more prone than beginners.

The survey showed that fatalities among parachutists were rare. Of nearly 5 million jumps in 1991, by 250,000 parachutists, there were only 74 fatalities — a rate of one per 65,000 jumps. Three quarters of those who died would have been saved by an automatic activation device (AAD) that triggers the opening of the parachute. Experienced skydivers dislike AADs because they reduce the human element in the sport and because they fear that the activation of the device could cause an accident to a nearby skydiver.

In Russia, which has the longest tradition of sport parachuting, dating from the 1920s, AADs are compulsory. Bryan Burke, safety and training adviser for a sky-

diving company in Arizona, says that the fatality rate there is a tiny fraction of that in the US. "As about two thirds to three quarters of all fatalities are low/no pulls, this makes sense," he says. Experienced skydivers, in his view, are more likely to pull the cord too late because they have become over-confident. The most plausible explanation for yesterday's accident is that the skydivers were less able to perceive their height because of snow below. They had altimeters, but may have ignored them.

A skydiver assesses altitude by working out how much of the picture he sees is occupied by sky, and how much by ground. As the ground becomes an ever-greater part of the picture, he knows from experience when to pull. But if the ground merges with the horizon, this method may fail, and the sky-divers may never have realised how close to the ground they were. "I've talked to a lot of people with low pulls," Mr Burke wrote in an Internet page on skydiving, "and most didn't have a clue they were down to two or three seconds of life expectancy when they finally got a canopy out."

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The Times Christmas Appeal: help a wildlife rescue charity and research into a deadly disease

Each year, *The Times* nominates two charities for its Christmas Appeal, commending them to readers as worthy recipients of their generosity. This year, a foundation that seeks a better deal for animals kept in captivity, and an appeal for an instrument to speed research on a neglected form of cancer are the chosen charities. The Born Free Foundation, named after Joy Adamson's

book, and founded by Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna, who played the Adamsons in the 1964 film, campaigns for animals both in captivity and in the wild. Money given by readers will go into a project to rescue and protect animals in many parts of the world. The Everyman appeal of the Institute of Cancer Research aims for a better understanding of a long neglected

disease — prostate cancer — which has received far less attention, and far less money, than other common cancers. The latest understanding of the genetic causes of cancer is opening new windows for screening and treatment. With the help of readers, research at the institute could be accelerated, bringing closer hopes of better treatments.

Team needs £40,000 to fight prostate cancer

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE search for better understanding of a neglected cancer that kills 11,000 men every year is one of the two subjects of this year's *Times* Christmas Charity Appeal.

The Institute of Cancer Research's Everyman appeal needs £40,000 to buy a machine to speed the search for the genes responsible for prostate cancer. Based in Sutton, Surrey, the institute is already responsible for the discovery of an important breast cancer gene, BRCA2.

Ros Eeles and David Dearnaley have launched a nationwide search for prostate cancer genes, with the collaboration of more than 100 specialists at hospitals throughout Britain. They will be looking for families where prostate cancer strikes early, has affected more than three members of the same family, or has affected two close relations, such as brothers.

The project will also examine large numbers of men with prostate cancer but with no known family history of the disease. In such cases, she explains, "the gene responsible could be common, widely

found in the population, but one which carries only a moderately increased risk. To find such 'low-penetrance' genes we need a large sample."

That, in turn, means a machine that can examine DNA samples quickly. Dr Eeles's team at present uses a gene sequencer that can analyse only one sample at a time. "We need a faster throughput if this project is to get results," she says. The ABI 377 gene sequencer can handle 36 samples at a time, transforming the chances of success.

It costs £87,000, and the institute's appeal hopes that *Times* readers can provide nearly half. The rest will be paid from other sources.

Prostate cancer is the Cinderella of cancers. While £16 million is spent on research into breast cancer in Britain, and £40 million into heart disease, prostate cancer receives just £1 million. Yet one man in ten is diagnosed with the disease, and by 2018 the numbers are expected to rise to one in four.

The prostate gland is a chestnut-shaped organ lying below the bladder in men, and

is responsible for forming part of the seminal fluid. At puberty, under the effect of androgen hormones, it grows, but stops at about the age of 20. Further growth often occurs after the age of 50. Prostate cancer, often considered a disease of older men, sometimes develops much earlier, especially in men genetically predisposed to it.

Dr Eeles is looking for two kinds of gene. High-risk genes comparable to BRCA2 sharply increase the risk of contracting the disease, and are likely to show up from the studies of families with a history of prostate cancer. Low-risk genes are likely to be much more common among the general population.

If the genes are found, there should be a chance of screening to detect those at high risk. "If we spot the signs of prostate cancer very early, only a fifth or so will progress to the full disease. If we could find the genes responsible, it would help enormously," Dr Eeles says.

Mind and Matter, page 15
Leading article, page 21



Dr Eeles needs special machine in search for genes which cause prostate cancer

Everyman Appeal

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Born Free group helps animals suffering in captivity

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

IN many zoos around the world, animals are treated more like freak shows than living creatures. The educational and scientific benefits of the good zoos are constantly undermined by the neglectful, apathetic treatment handed out by the bad ones.

The Born Free Foundation is dedicated to improving conditions for animals in captivity. It lobbies against the multimillion pound ivory trade. And it recently transported woolly monkeys from the Amazon to

a Cornish sanctuary. The trend in keeping them as pets has threatened their extinction.

In 1994 the foundation found two lions, Rafi and Anthea, dirty and malnourished, in a cage in a rooftop bar in Tenerife. They were rescued and taken to a sanctuary in Kent and, earlier this year, were transported to the Shamwari game reserve near Port Elizabeth in South Africa. Tomorrow the foundation is opening a Wildlife Education Centre at Shamwari, at which Rafi and Anthea, now healthy and thriving in their natural habitat, will be the

guests of honour. Lions have a special place in the history of the Born Free Foundation. The charity was founded by Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna who played George and Joy Adamson in the 1964 film, *Born Free*. Travers moved from acting to become a maker of wildlife documentaries.

In 1984, the couple launched Zoo Check after the death of London Zoo's last African elephant, Pole Pole. It was largely thanks to Zoo Check that the poor quality of life for many zoo animals was brought to light. Its work gradually expanded

until, in 1991, it became the foundation. It is now run by Will Travers, the son of the founders, who said its operations now extend from China and Japan to America, Romania and Egypt. This year, it has persuaded the Cairo zoo to move a polar bear suffering from a skin condition to more temperate Alexandria where its skin instantly improved.

Since 1986, Zoo Check and the foundation have helped lions, tigers, a leopard, dolphins, elephants and primates. On the Isle of Skye it helps to finance a wildlife rescue centre run by the International Otter Sur-

vival Fund. "In human society," Mr Travers says, "we value highly the importance of the individual. We should extend that value system to individual animals, to the solitary lion in the tiny cage, to the single elephant that makes up part of Africa's threatened herds."

Money from this appeal will go to The Times/Born Free Animal Rescue and Protection Project to help, among other projects, to find £30,000 for an animal ambulance in the Scottish Highlands, £80,000 for an elephant conservation project in Kenya.

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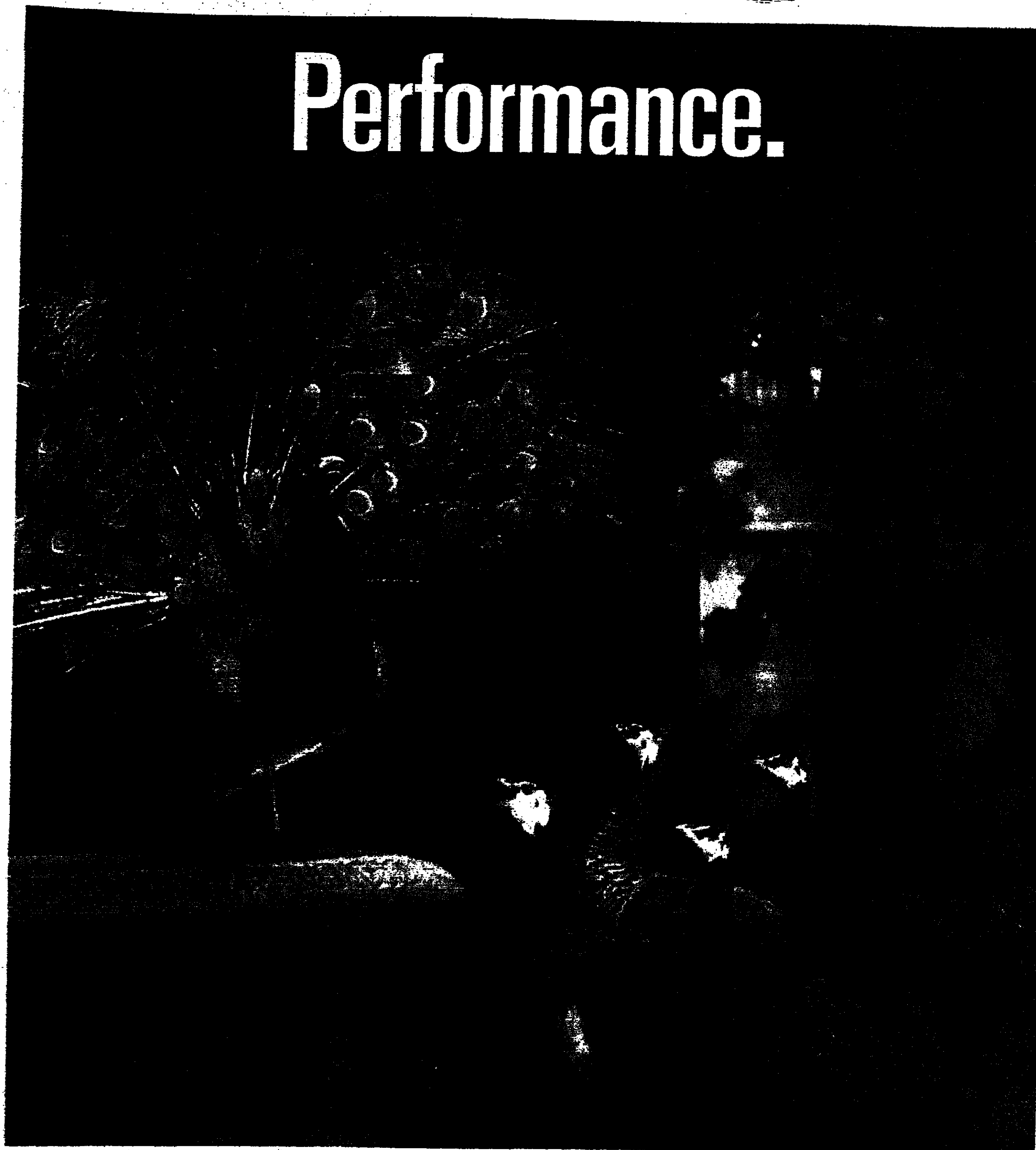
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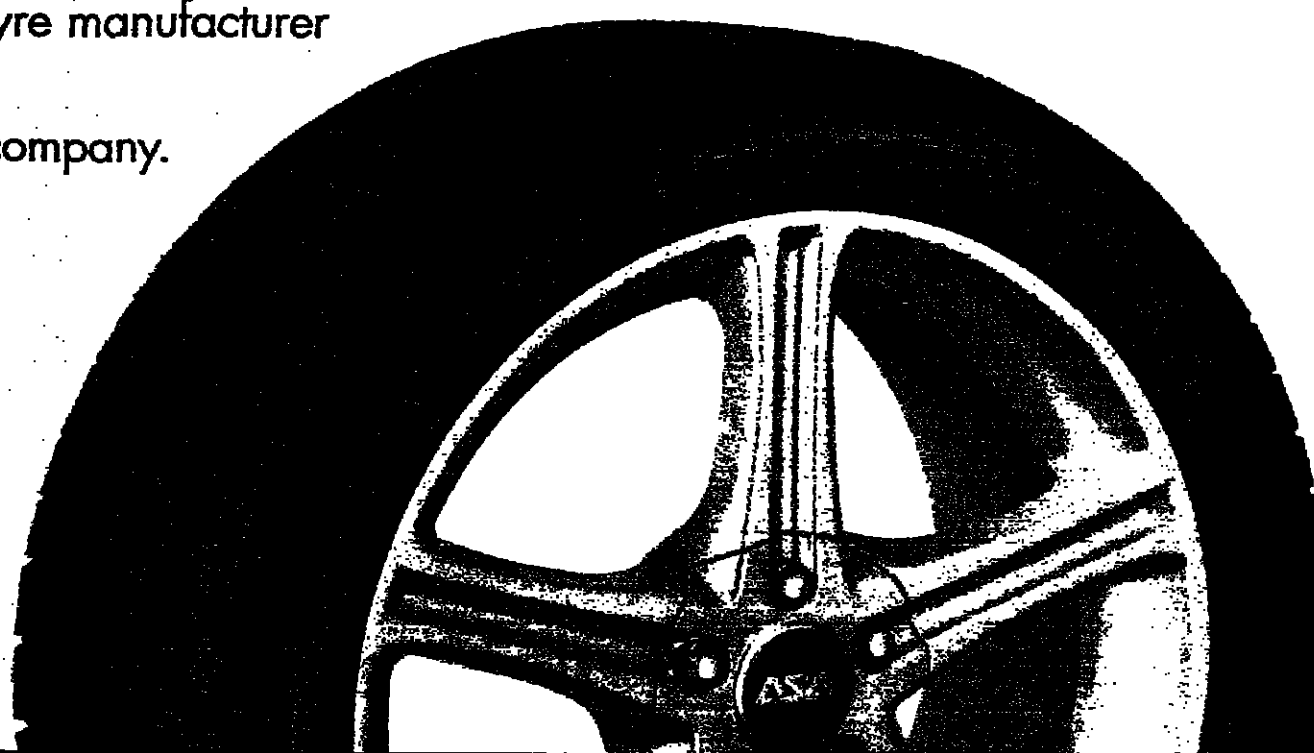
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More may have been infected in CJD case

SURGICAL instruments used to remove the eyes of a woman suffering from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease could have infected more transplant recipients, the Government confirmed yesterday.

The move follows claims in *The Sunday Mail* in Scotland that at least six patients may have been infected by instruments used on Marion Hamilton, 53, whose infection with CJD was not known until after her death from lung cancer.

A Scottish Office spokesman said: "The risk of transmission is lower than that from transplantation of eye tissue. However, we have taken expert advice on the level of risk, and the consultants concerned are being contacted. Unless a patient hears from a consultant, there is no need for any individual to worry."

Health guidelines recommend the destruction of instruments after contact with CJD sufferers. The spokesman said the instruments had been destroyed. An inquiry has been launched to investigate how eye tissue from Mrs Hamilton came to be transplanted into three other people. It will be led by Sir William Stewart, a chief scientific adviser to the Cabinet Office from 1990 to 1995. (PA News)

Health chief tries to ease fears after man dies of chicken flu

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

HEALTH officials in Hong Kong are trying to ease fears that a strain of flu previously found only in birds could spread to human beings worldwide. A man aged 54 recently became the second person to die of the infection, and a 13-year-old girl is in hospital.

Flu is notorious for mutating into new strains, which makes vaccination only partly effective. However, the Hong Kong health department deputy director Paul Saw, who is chairing a committee investigating the outbreak, said there was no need for panic.

"There is no evidence that the disease is widespread and we hope that it isn't," he said. Experts from the US Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta and from the World Health Organisation have been asked to help in producing a vaccine against the strain, known as H5N1.

"We are hurrying to make the vaccine because there is a potential for the virus to spread worldwide," Dr Saw said. "The WHO has been asked to alert vaccine production centres in the world with a view to preparing vaccines."

The first case of the new strain appeared in May, when it killed a three-year-old boy in Hong Kong. At the time there was no evidence of spread, and experts hoped that this would prove to be a single isolated case. A boy aged 2 was taken to hospital with a fever



A Hong Kong poultry vendor at work: the strain killed 4,500 chickens. Two infected boys lived near a chicken market

last month, but recovered.

Initial findings did not show that the four cases shared a common source, nor was the virus transmitted by any one of the victims to the others, Dr Saw said. Specimens from the two latest patients have been sent to the American centre in Atlanta.

Investigators have taken their search for the source of

the virus to China and have been checking poultry farms across Hong Kong. Among domestic poultry, the strain can cause lethal fowl plague.

About 4,500 chickens are known to have died from H5N1 at three farms in Hong Kong in April. The two boys first infected with the strain lived near a chicken market. The one who died used to play

in an area where poultry was bred.

Ken Shortridge, a microbiologist working with investigators, said that farmers in areas of southern China bordering Hong Kong had been found to carry antibodies for the strain while not displaying symptoms. This perhaps indicated longstanding infections to which they had developed

resistance. In October a team of specialists warned that the strain must be closely monitored.

They said: "We feel that the identification of the H5N1 influenza A virus and its presently unknown pandemic potential should be the basis of an intensive monitoring by the international WHO influenza surveillance network."

Teacher families at greater risk of leukaemia

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

CHILDREN of teachers are more likely to develop leukaemia than those whose fathers are in any other occupation, according to research published today. The reason is because of teachers' exposure to infections at school.

The study also shows an increased risk for children whose fathers work in sales, transport, construction, and service jobs.

The findings, by Leo Kinlen, from the Cancer Research Campaign epidemiology unit at Oxford, are based on five earlier studies made in rural areas linking a high rate of childhood leukaemias to the make-up of the population.

The new research supports the theory that an unidentified infection increases children's susceptibility to leukaemia. Dr Kinlen pioneered the idea that when people from different parts of the country work in rural areas they may be exposed to new infections.

The most comprehensive survey of childhood leukaemia, published two months ago in the *British Medical Journal*, also supported that theory. It showed conclusively that there was a higher incidence of leukaemia among children whose fathers work at atomic power stations but that that had nothing to do with exposure to radiation. The conclusion was that it was caused by people from all over the country coming in close contact and catching infec-

tions to which they were unused.

The new research, published in the *British Journal of Cancer*, reasons that people working with children are more exposed to infections because children are more susceptible to infections than adults. Men working in construction and transport industries are more vulnerable because they often work away from home, where they are exposed to different infections.

For the study Dr Kinlen compared the expected number of children with leukaemia aged up to 14 with the actual number of cases found among those with fathers in different occupations. He found that those who came in contact with a lot of people through their work had a significantly greater risk of their children developing cancer.

"This is important because it is the first piece of evidence based on data from individuals to support the theory of an underlying infection linked to childhood leukaemia," Dr Kinlen said. "It also further supports the role of adults in transmitting this infection."

Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "If we can prove an underlying infection does increase children's risk of childhood leukaemia it could open the door for the future identification of that infection and even vaccination against it."

Hospital reconsiders use of tags after baby's abduction

By Kathryn Knight

MANAGERS at Basildon Hospital are reviewing whether they should issue new-born babies with electronic security tags after the abduction of baby Karli.

In the past, nursing staff and doctors had preferred to rely on the vigilance of staff. But as employees continued to be questioned about the abduction on Friday, a spokesman for the hospital said that managers were considering all options.

A 33-year-old woman with three children is to appear before magistrates this morning charged with abduction. Denise Giddings, from Langdon Hills, Basildon, remained in custody yesterday after being charged at 6pm on Saturday in the presence of her solicitor.

Karli and her mother, Tanja Hawthorne, 30, stayed at the hospital yesterday and are likely to be discharged on

Wednesday. Yesterday two police officers were standing guard in Willow ward and a third officer was stationed at the entrance to the unit. They will leave when the Hawthornes are discharged.

Pat Trinnaman, a spokeswoman for the hospital, said that security at the unit had worked in that nurses were immediately alerted, and were probably alerted earlier than if the baby had worn a tag which would have activated only when the child passed through the door.

"But obviously we have to look at the issue of tags again, along with all other security issues. It is difficult to get the right balance because if someone is determined then it is very hard to stop them. The only total security would be to have no visitors at all."

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said that Frank Dobson, the

Health Secretary, had asked for a report on the incident but was confident that the guidelines issued in 1995 after the abduction of Abbie Humphries were sufficient. "However, he will take the report very seriously and see if there are any further recommendations we can make," she said.



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مكتبة النظم

Bends return as rivers get rid of dire straights

IT WAS the heyday of tower blocks and new towns, when planners believed that they were laying the foundations of a brave new world. What few noticed during the 1950s and 1960s was that they were also turning rivers into little more than canals.

A complex landscape little changed since Constable painted *The Hay Wain* was being transformed as successive governments determined that Britain should never again suffer the food shortages of the Second World War. Brooks which once meandered gently through meadows, and flooded every winter, were straightened and tamed, allowing flood plains to be reclaimed for crops. Where once a river flowed was now little more than a large ditch filled with sluggish muddy water. In towns, rivers were channelled into pipes or concrete in the 1960s when a series of "improvements" up-

Changes made by planners in past 50 years are on way out, Simon de Bruxelles says

put back into the River Avon at Melksham in Wiltshire, after engineers conceded that attempts to improve on nature had not worked. The Avon is the latest in a series of projects across the country attempting to undo the damage done to Britain's rivers in the past 50 years.

At Melksham the Avon looks more like a canal than a river. It was channelled into a straight jacket of steel and concrete in the 1960s when a series of "improvements" up-

stream increased the risk of flooding. The work is being carried out by the Environment Agency with £600,000 from Sainsbury's, which earlier this year opened a supermarket on the river's former flood plain. The restoration of the half-mile stretch of river was a condition of permission to build the store.

Three flat shelves called berms are being built in the river channel to make the river meander and to speed up the flow of water. The berms will then be edged with coir matting studded with plants such as rush, iris and sedge which all but vanished when the river was straightened.

Shoals, riffles and eddy pools will reappear and the faster-flowing water will keep the river and banks from silting up. As the vegetation re-establishes itself, fish and other wildlife will return, finding new habitats in shaded, shallow pools where there is now little more than mud and



The Skerne was little more than an open drain until the intervention of the River Restoration Project. Meanders were put in and a park created

deep water. Ann Skinner, the Environment Agency's project manager, said: "There is an economic benefit besides the environmental one. We are restoring a self-sustaining system that looks after itself without too much intervention. Once a river has been returned to a more natural

state it is amazing how quickly nature completes the restoration."

The River Restoration Project, a non-profit-making organisation formed three years ago and partly funded by the European Union, has so far completed two experimental schemes, one rural

and one urban. The River Skerne in Darlington, Durham, was little more than an open drain carrying water out of town between tips of industrial waste until it was transformed by the project. Meanders were put in and a riverside park created. At the National Trust-owned

Coleshill estate near Swindon, the river course and flood plains had been altered by man many times during the past 900 years. The Cole had been straightened to form a mill stream, and dredging 25 years ago removed the clay river bed and lowered the water table. Water meadows

alongside the river had dried out and the river was sluggish and unexciting.

Now the original meanders have been recut and the river restored to life. The flood plains are working again and the Trust intends to re-establish fringing meadows, only fragments of which survive.

Traffic wardens on charm offensive

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TRAFFIC wardens are to be trained to use charm rather than aggression when dispensing parking tickets. They will also be taught how to apprehend irate motorists when the friendly approach fails.

A prospectus for a new National Vocational Qualification sets out lessons on "interpersonal skills", and staff will be encouraged to offer advice to motorists.

The move comes as many local authorities allow private companies to take on ticketing. The training has been developed by the Security Industry Training Organisation with funding from the Government and the British Parking Association, and the first candidates will be accepted in the new year.

Alasdair Macmillan, of the Association, said: "There is a certain amount of aggression from the public which has to be dealt with professionally. It has to be toned down rather than allowed to escalate. Language and body language has to be non-threatening."

Edmund King, of the RAC, said that some heavy-handed "jobsworths" were more interested in dishing out tickets than educating drivers about the dangers of illegal parking. Some of these privatised attendants have got a lot to learn about how to react to the motorist when there is the potential for confrontation, he said. "The uniforms worn by many of the South American para-military uniforms which make for confrontation. The majority of motorists are reasonable and the attendant can explain in a pleasant way why the ticket has been issued."

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Robocop' clears his office

Ray Mallon, the superintendent who pioneered "zero-tolerance" policing in Cleveland, cleared his office yesterday following his suspension for alleged activity which could be construed as criminal. The man nicknamed Robocop said: "That is a monstrous slur. I cannot comment on the inquiry but I have nothing to hide. My family and I have been overwhelmed by messages of support."

Duchess's deal

The Duchess of York has reportedly signed a new one-year contract worth £1.25 million to promote the Weight Watchers diet. The *New York Post* said her appearances in commercials had led to a big rise in business.

Smoke warning

People were warned to stay indoors as smoke from a blazing warehouse at an industrial estate on Canvey Island, Essex, enveloped their homes. The fire was believed to have been started deliberately.

Boy's moat fall

Matthew Rayner, 5, of St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, fell 15ft into the moat of Bodiam Castle, where he had been visiting Father Christmas, after his brother pushed him through a window. Two visitors rescued him.

Cabbage squad

Students are to abseil down cliffs this month at Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel, to clear away rhododendrons whose spread is threatening the miniature flowering Lundy Cabbage, which is listed as an endangered vegetable.

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Queen may take high-profile role in Mandelson's Europe

THE Queen is to be offered a high-profile role in Britain's presidency of the European Union, in a strategy to help to transform the Government's image in Europe. Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, has suggested that the Queen should give a lunch for representatives of all the nations who want to become EU members.

Labour's chief spin-doctor sets out his vision of managing Britain's EU presidency, reports Valerie Elliott

ally appear as a means to boost the Government's image. A document from Mr Mandelson, which has been approved by ministers, sets out the presentational strategy for the presidency and emphasises the need for the Government to demonstrate that it is in the European mainstream.

His objectives include changing perceptions of Britain within the EU, and of the EU within Britain. He believes that this can be achieved by "strong messages" from the Government, including use of major official events "with a flourish". As an example, he cites a lunch hosted by the Queen.

Mr Mandelson also believes that the Government can also benefit by "playing on strengths" such as the personal impact of Tony Blair.

Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, and other key ministers can also be used to show that the British are no longer the "wreckers" in Europe. However, his strategy paper, circulated in Whitehall, recognises that there are potential weaknesses. One problem is trying to present Britain as a leader in Europe "when the most ambitious European project (EMU) goes ahead successfully without the UK".

Mr Mandelson highlights the "domestic preoccupation with EU threats/interference/waste, compounded by selective and slanted domestic media coverage". The reform of the common agriculture policy is also identified as "a difference of interest" with some partners.

He takes up the theme of the re-branding of Britain with the country emerging as a "source of fresh ideas" to "re-establish the EU as a world leader, setting a new agenda for the 21st century on a global scale".

Ministers told to mend their ways for EU meetings

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

AN ETIQUETTE guide has been issued to ministers and officials on how to behave during the British presidency of the European Union.

The "do's and don'ts" are intended to help the Government to avoid pitfalls during the six months of its presidency, which begins in January, and also to ensure that it gets its own way.

The Whitehall advice includes suggestions on how to deal with difficult MEPs who might try to embarrass the Government, and also suggests lunch or dinner with key figures in the European Parliament.

There are plenty of practical tips such as not to make any asides in meetings until the red light warning that the microphone is switched on goes out. Ministers are also advised not to talk too quickly and to avoid clever and sophisticated use of English. Puns and "slangy dog stories" are also out because most are untranslatable, according to the guide.

Some ministers may be heartened to learn that "there is great patience with long-winded orators," and that meetings are generally conducted in a courteous manner. But the guide says that if someone expresses "surprise" about a statement, the speaker means that "something said really goes too far".

Similarly, anyone perplexed by a remark or intervention

really means that something said is "pretty nonsensical", and anyone expressing disappointment is being far too cautious and means to say that "everyone else is being needlessly difficult".

Ministers are warned that an abrasive or combative style is unusual and would be conspicuous, but they are told to be persistent to get their message across.

Anyone chairing a committee is told to "curtail overlong or irrelevant speeches" and to be evenhanded. But they are warned not to hurry proceedings too much as that might backfire. The guide states: "Delegations need time to

reflect and consult if they are to shift their position." No one should agree a final text of legislation until they have read it in English.

On dealing with troublesome MEPs, the best tactic, according to the guide, is "to argue, in measured tone, that this is not a priority issue for discussion". Among fixers who can expect countless offers of British hospitality are the French lawyer and MEP, Nicole Fontaine, 55, vice-president of the European Parliament; Pauline Green, 48, the British MEP who leads the Socialist group; Wilfried Martens, 61, the Belgian who leads the Christian Democratic European People's Party; and Gijb de Vries, 41, the Dutch leader of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party.

Press officers are also told to remind their ministers to speak wearing the presidency hat. An early-morning inquiry from a journalist of "What are you trying to achieve today?" should not be answered "We'll be fighting to secure the best deal for the UK".

Planning for the presidency has taken up more than 1,500 working days of official time. A former Conservative MEP has defected to the Liberal Democrats in protest at William Hague's opposition to the European single currency. Peter Price represented Lancashire West from 1979 to 1984, then London South East until 1994.

Milking love of chocolate

TONY BLAIR might wish to turn the British presidency of the EU to his advantage at home by fighting to saving milk chocolate. The issue has been put down by officials as "one to watch". If necessary, Mr Blair could look for tips from Jim Hacker, of fictional *Yes Minister* fame, who achieved front-page attention after floating the Brussels plan to make the British sausage illegal and then launching a successful battle to save the British banger. It was the occasion that propelled Hacker from minister to Prime Minister.



Thousands of revivalist Christians, who believe in speaking in tongues, prophecy and miracles, at a recent meeting at the London Arena

Charismatics offer secret prayers for Blair

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

IN ONE of the best-kept secrets of the religious world, 8,000 revivalist Christians have been hiring the London Arena in Docklands to pray through the night for Tony Blair and his Government.

The three-monthly gathering, which has been publicised only in the specialist Christian pentecostal media, meets again this Friday for an all-night festival of prayer, praise and worship.

Nearly 10,000 charismatic Christians — who believe in speaking in tongues, prophecy and miracles — are expected to turn up for the 9½-hour meeting, which is expected to finish at 5.30am. The Festival of Life, unprecedented in Britain, will have the Prime Minister and his team

high on its list of "prayer targets". Some adherents believe their pre-election prayers for "good government" might even have influenced the outcome of the general election.

The festival, a phenomenon which has caught church and secular leaders by surprise, has been imported to Britain from Lagos, Nigeria. It is a rare example of a black-led movement capturing the attention of the mainstream Christian churches in Britain.

Up to a third of worshippers on Friday night, the eighth meeting in two years, are expected to be from predominantly white pentecostal churches such as the Ekin ministries and the Assemblies of God, as well as from the Church of England, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches. While preachers such as

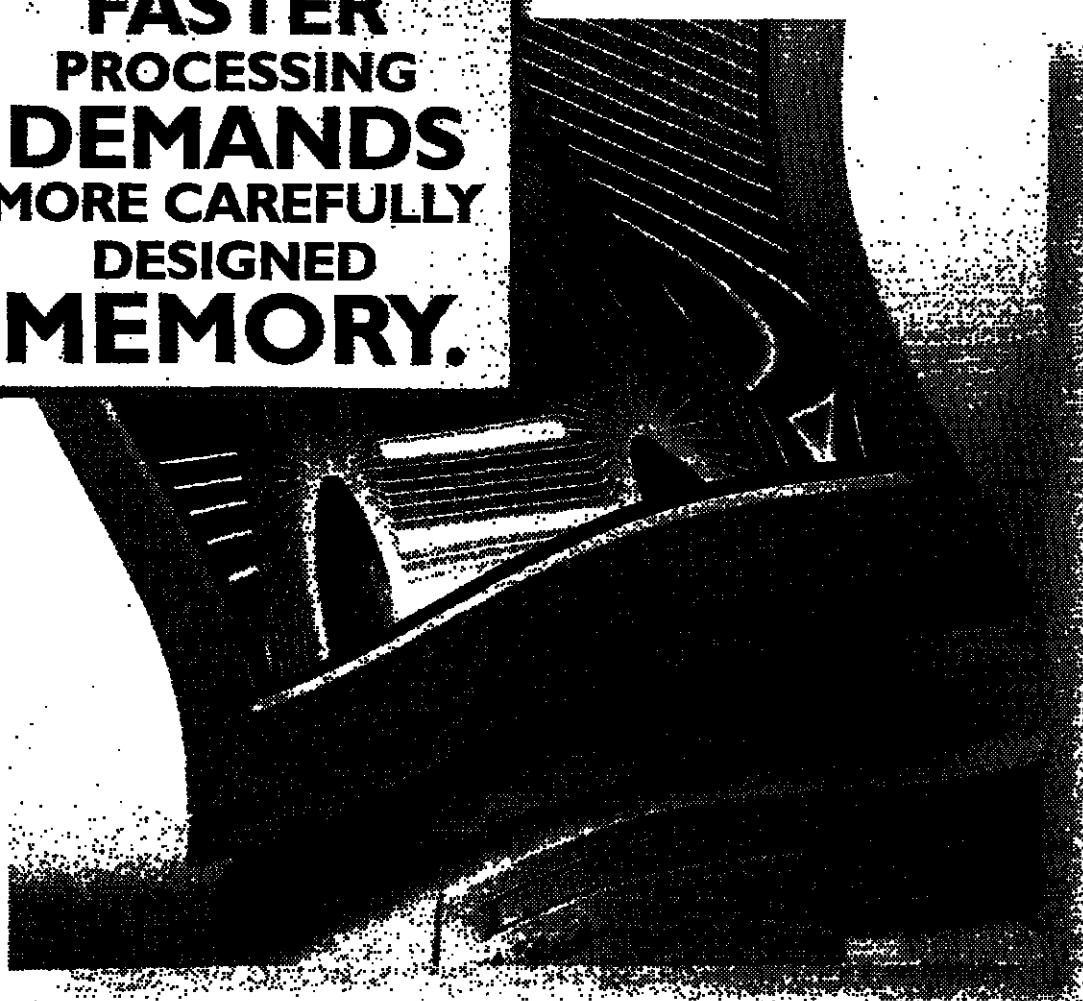
Billy Graham have regularly hosted large revivalist meetings in Britain, and others have hired venues such as Wembley, the Festival of Life is the biggest regular worship meeting to take place here and the first to meet through the night.

The £60,000 fee for the arena is financed by members of the Nigerian-based Redeemed Christian Church of God. David Proudfoot, a spokesman, said that although a nominal collection is taken, there is no pressure to donate. More than 500 supporters give monthly donations towards expenses. "These meetings are born out of a genuine desire to worship God. They go for prayer targets, and decide to pray about a certain matter. One of these will be Tony Blair and his Government," he said.



A preacher at a meeting of the Festival of Life

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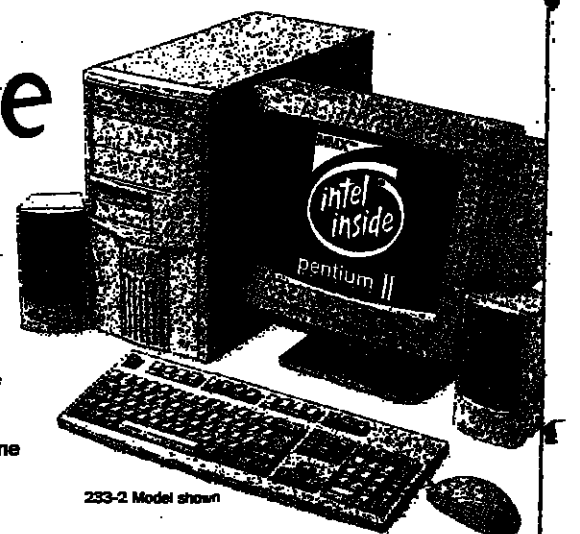
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مكتبة النسخ

British suspicions deepen as Yeltsin makes mischief with Kohl

Boris Yeltsin has been up to his old tricks in Scandinavia. Last week, in another ill-starred trip abroad, he made an offer to cut naval forces in the Baltic that surprised even his own high command. His bumbling political style, however, concealed the real geopolitical intent: to separate Baltic security from the rest of Western Europe.

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Russia has been playing this game in different regions since 1992 — some would say for centuries — according to a scheme refined by Yevgeni Primakov, first as KGB chief, then as Foreign Minister. To splinter the West is regarded as the only sensible counter-

country from superpower to a regional Euro-Asian power. His phrases smack of Tsarist positional diplomacy.

That is why Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, should step with caution in his much vaunted friendship with Mr Yeltsin. So far the Chancellor has carefully paced this relationship. At the bilateral summit in Baden-Baden last April — the 75th anniversary of the Treaty of Rapallo — Mr Yeltsin suggested a strategic partnership between the two countries. Wisely, the German leader declined and explained that he did not want to be an interpreter between Russia and the West. The Russians

started to complain about how Germany was letting them down: not enough help in making Nato enlargement attractive to the Russians, slow progress in the opening of European markets and sluggish German investment. This was unfair but touched on an essential truth: Germans no longer want anything much from the Russians, apart from peace.

To advance the Russo-German friendship, Bonn concluded, it was necessary to broaden its base. Jacques Chirac was recruited. There are now to be regular Franco-German-Russian summits. The point

of incorporating France was to reassure Central Europe that the era of Russo-German continental carve-ups has passed. Instead, suspicions have deepened. For the British, the triangle is a sign European foreign policy is still being driven by the Franco-German axis, that the trend remains one of exclusion.

Mr Yeltsin delights in sowing such mistrust. Once, at a dinner attended by West European heads of government, he whispered into Herr Kohl's ear: "Helmut, I don't think they like me very much." The seductive message — sauna friend Helmut enjoys a special relationship

Soon enough M Chirac will step into that sauna, too and will, like Herr Kohl, be flattered. The Franco-German partnership has thus become part of Russia's regional strategy.

The Americans are as dismayed as the British. If Germany no longer wants much from Russia, why construct special relationships in competition with Washington? A short essay, "Life After Kohl", in the latest issue of *Foreign Affairs* argues that a common approach to Russia should bond Germany and the US at a time of transatlantic drift. "Germany's concentration on moving European integration ahead, and Amer-

ican attention to Latin America, the Middle East, the Pacific Rim, and now Central Asia — areas where the interests of Germany, a regional European power, are minor — mean that the US and the Federal Republic will work together less frequently."

Robert Gerald Livingston, one of Washington's top German experts, sees the US and Germany as natural allies on policy towards Moscow. Their interest in the regions are congruent. They both are keenly aware of the need to take account of Russia's security interests... "Germany,

in other words, should not try to shape a Russian policy without America.

German critics of this column complain that its logic is often drawn from a past era: containment, expansion, encirclement, all the Kaiser's words. They are only partly right. Germany has a special position and generates special anxieties. Britain is wary of Germany's European plans in the West; Russia of Germany's reach in the East. These may seem like 19th-century categories, but they still apply. The time has come for Britain to develop a coherent European Union strategy on Russia that can hold up in the 21st century.

Madrid to propose 'two-flag' plan for Gibraltar

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SPAIN is to propose that Britain takes a 99-year lease on Gibraltar, after London climbed down over its threatened veto of Spanish integration in Nato's military command.

As Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, prepares for talks in London on Wednesday with Angel Matutes, his Spanish counterpart, Spanish sources have revealed that their Government is ready to unveil a new plan for joint sovereignty to make London and Madrid jointly responsible for the Rock until it reverts to Spanish control in the next century.

To sweeten the package, Spain will suggest social benefits, political rights and economic inducements to persuade inhabitants of the Rock to accept the plan. It promises to give the 30,000 Gibraltarians more say over their future and access to far more money than special funds than they now enjoy as a British dependency.

However, Spain made clear it will use both stick and carrot. If Gibraltarians are "obstinate", Spain will toughen the already difficult border controls. Señor Matutes said in a newspaper interview yesterday, British officials dismissed any suggestion of shared sovereignty, saying

that the Spanish plan was completely unacceptable and that if Spain tried to bully Gibraltar again, there would be a sharp British reaction.

Last week a Bill was introduced in the Commons proposing to give Gibraltar the right to elect its own MP to Westminster. It would integrate Gibraltar with Britain and give it the same political rights as any part of the United Kingdom. Such a plan would provoke fury in Madrid.

Spain admits that its two-flag plan is not new, saying it was first put to James Callaghan when he was Prime Minister in 1979. But it claims that the package is now worth far more to Gibraltarians.

Peter Caruana, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, said during a recent visit to London that he would press Britain to end the Rock's colonial status by making it a crown dependency, similar to Jersey or the Isle of Man.

Mr Cook said he would give Mr Caruana's proposal "a fair wind", but British officials made clear they would not do anything to upset Madrid. Spanish sources said the proposal was unacceptable but Madrid has few hopes that Britain will endorse its own plan.



Rescue workers search through the wreckage of the huge Antonov-124 military transport plane that crashed into flats in the Siberian town of Irkutsk at the weekend

Russia grounds cargo flights after 70 die in crash

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA yesterday grounded all flights of its Antonov-124 military transport aircraft after one of the huge cargo planes ploughed into a Siberian city at the weekend, killing about 70 people.

As hundreds of rescue workers continued to comb the devastated site of the crash in the city of Irkutsk, the

Ministry of Defence said that all flights had been suspended until it had established what had caused the disaster on Saturday.

According to reports from the area, some 3,000 miles east of Moscow, the cargo plane had only been in the air for about 20 seconds when the crew reported that two of the four engines had failed.

The plane, which was on its way to Vietnam carrying two Sukhoi-27

fighter jets, had only climbed a few hundred feet when it belly-flopped onto a residential area close to the military airbase.

"I looked outside and saw the plane descending, leaning to one side, getting lower and lower," said one elderly witness. "I felt a shudder go through me and I felt awful. Then I heard a bang and all my doors and windows blew open."

The plane, more than 200ft long

and with a wingspan of 220ft, was carrying 110 tonnes of aviation fuel which exploded on impact, setting apartment blocks and a nearby orphanage on fire and sending huge chunks of fuselage flying into surrounding buildings. Galina Dmitrova, one of the first rescue workers at the scene, said: "There was fire. There were no people. Nothing but flames."

Fortunately, most of the residents

were away from their homes at the time of the accident. Among the dead were 23 people on the aircraft and 24 residents, including two children from the orphanage.

At least 13 people, including eight children, were taken to hospital suffering severe burns. Another 24 people were listed as missing, although the rescue services said that there was no chance of finding any more survivors.

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'Pensioner spy' fooled Mossad for ten years

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MOSSAD, Israel's secret service, was further discredited yesterday with disclosures that it wrongly assessed Iraq's nuclear potential and that for nearly a decade it was misled by one of its own spies about Syria's strategic goals.

The latest scandals have come while a government committee is still investigating Mossad's hopelessly bungled attempt on September 25 to poison Khaled Meshal, the leader of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, in Jordan.

Israel's Channel 2 television network revealed that last year Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, mistakenly informed the US Government that Iraq was much closer to having nuclear weapons capability than it was.

The false Israeli report was only exposed when it was challenged by the Americans, who had their own intelligence showing that Iraq's acquisition of nuclear weapons was not as imminent as Mr Netanyahu claimed. He was relying on a briefing given to him by Uzi Arad, a high-ranking Mossad agent who is now his political adviser.

In the Iraqi affair, Mossad had pretended to have had

information from sources in Baghdad that did not exist. Israeli commentators pointed out that, had there not been a sharp counter-assertion by the CIA, the false Mossad report on the Baghdad regime's nuclear capability could have prompted a similar pre-emptive strike to that launched by Israeli warplanes against the Iraqi Osirak reactor in 1981.

Details of the latest scandal were broadcast just as Israelis were attempting to digest the almost farcical details of the lengthy deception over Syria perpetrated by veteran agent Yehuda Gil, 63, who nearly led the Israeli Army into war against the Syrians last year by misleading his superiors about the motive for Syrian troop deployments.

The Tel Aviv District Court lifted an earlier ban and allowed Israeli papers to report that Mr Gil had continued to fool Mossad even after his retirement and that he is alleged to have pocketed about \$200,000 in cash to pay off his non-existent sources.

Mr Gil, who conducted his false reports at home in the sleepy Israeli town of Gedera, south of Tel Aviv, is due to go on trial on December 17. The charges against him include

transmission of material with the intent to harm state security, theft by a civil servant and the submission of false information purporting to have originated from foreign sources. He has become known as "the pensioner spy" because Mossad continued to use his false information after his retirement in 1989.

To add to Mossad's humiliation over the Gil affair, it was disclosed yesterday that the Libyan-born spy once served as a permanent instructor at the Mossad college near the Israeli seaside town of Herzliya, teaching cadets a special course, "The Lie as Art".

The motive for Mr Gil's deception is not clear. Fluent in Arabic, French and Italian, he was revealed yesterday to have been a former leading figure in the far-right Molodet Party, which advocates the expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and opposes even minimal territorial compromise with the Arabs.

The disclosure prompted speculation that Mr Gil's concocted reports might have been aimed at discouraging Israeli leaders from making peace with Arab countries, particularly Syria.



Liquid assets build basilica

Charity workers, endorsed by the Pope, used ten million drinks cans to build this replica of St Peter's Basilica, opened at the weekend. The 97ft-high model on Rome's outskirts is a fifth the size of the real building. The 40 volunteers for blood and organ donor charities hope to raise money by auctioning the aluminium when the replica is dismantled next month. (Reuters)

Mugabe to close farmers' judicial loophole

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT MUGABE announced that he would not allow white farmers to take the Government to court over his planned mass expropriation of land begun ten days ago with the promulgation of a list of nearly 1,500 farms for "forcible acquisition".

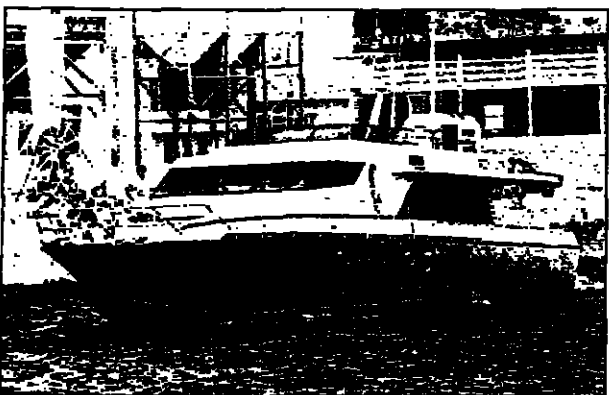
The Zimbabwean leader told the annual "people's conference" of his ruling Zanu PF party at the weekend that the controversial confiscation was "a political decision" and it would not help white farmers "to drag the Government to court".

Farmers regard the legal system as one of the few avenues of appeal. The farms officially listed — after being chosen by Zanu party officials — cover 45 per cent of commercial farmland, of which about 85 per cent is fully productive. The Government has no apparent means to compensate the owners.

"This is not a matter for the courts to decide," President Mugabe said. "It was not a matter for the courts to decide when our ancestors lost their land to white settlers. Where were the courts at that time? Why did they not intervene?"

He did not indicate at what point he would block their legal challenge. The law, under which the expropriation is being carried out, provides for an automatic review of a confiscation by the administrative court, a junior division of the High Court, which also has powers to quash the acquisitions. Farmers also have the right to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Yesterday Zimbabwe bishops urged the Government to ensure fairness and justice and allow the farmers to appeal to the courts. They said: "No citizen can legally be prevented from appealing to the courts as neutral arbiters, whatever the issue might be."



The ocean-going but unreliable royal yacht Fortuna

Balearics millionaires keep Spanish King afloat

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

THE problem of how to replace King Juan Carlos of Spain's royal yacht, the *Fortuna*, has been solved by a group of millionaires who are clubbing together to buy him a new one.

The offer by 25 millionaires from the Balearic Islands brings to an end a five-year saga over the ocean-going royal yacht, which had taken to breaking down in embarrassing circumstances. Some of the King's guests,

including the Prince of Wales, have found themselves being towed back to port by fishing boats after the 150ft *Fortuna's* engines blew.

In 1992 the King ordered a new *Fortuna* to be built at a Spanish shipyard. But when the budget spiralled out of control, he decided it was best to sell the new vessel and keep patching up the old one.

Mario Conde, a banker and then owner of the shipyard, tried to give the £6 million yacht to the King as a present, but it was refused. The gift

would eventually have proved a huge embarrassment for the King, as Señor Conde is now on trial for allegedly robbing his bank's customers of up to £50 million.

The millionaires from the Mediterranean islands of Majorca, Minorca and Ibiza have overcome the problem of gift-giving by forming a special charity which will pay the £12 million cost of the new *Fortuna*. The vessel will be owned by the state but used by the King.

"It is a way of thanking Juan Carlos

and the Royal Family for the positive publicity that their frequent visits to the islands brings us," said Gabriel Barcelo, one of the millionaires who will each donate £500,000. Most of them have made their fortunes from tourism.

Spain's Royal Family spends the summer holidays at the Miravet palace in Palma de Mallorca.

The King will receive the donors at the Zarzuela Palace in Madrid on Thursday, when they will formally offer to buy the new vessel.

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Susan Oliver is aged 29 and single. She lives in Oxford and works as a freelance journalist. Susan intends studying for an MBA while continuing her work and is remortgaging her flat with a loan of £35,000 against a value of £65,000. She will raise capital of £10,000 with her Personal Choice Mortgage and use it to help to fund her studies. The free remortgage package and not having to provide income information were key factors in her decision to switch her mortgage to Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct.

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THE TIMES MONDAY DECEMBER 8 1997

New-look Iran seeks to woo wary Saudis

Tehran is playing the model moderate host, writes Michael Theodoulou

ALMOST two decades after Iran threatened to export its Shia Islamic revolution to the Middle East, Tehran is making peace with its Saudi enemy in an attempt to challenge American influence.

Such as the degree of hatred to the late Ayatollah Khomeini declared ten years ago that Iran might one day be able to forgive President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, but never his Fahd of Saudi Arabia, whose overthrow he demanded repeatedly.

But today, 18 years after the spiritual leader sent alarm bells ringing around the predominantly Sunni Muslim Arab world, King Fahd's brother, Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud, along with many of Iran's former enemies who supported Saddam's eight-year war against "Persian cockroaches", will fly to Tehran to attend a summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

For Tehran, the biggest gathering of Islamic leaders in the city since the 1979 revolution represents a chance to repair its tarnished international image and advance its goal to be the regional

powerbroker. The fact that not one of the 55 members of the OIC has boycotted the summit has delighted Iranian leaders, who see it as proof that America's attempts to isolate the Islamic republic have failed.

Iranian commentators contrasted the turnout with the large-scale boycott of last month's American-sponsored Middle East economic summit in Qatar. The princes and presidents visiting Iran will be greeted by images of a less threatening country and one that is keen to demonstrate a pragmatic foreign policy under President Khatami, the moderate leader who said recently: "First comes Iran, then Islam."

A European diplomat said:

"The Gulf Arabs are encouraged by Khatami, with even the most conservative state willing to give Iran a chance. Of course, they will want to see results."

Perhaps, in deference to their sensitivities, Iran is also making amends. The slogan "Down with America", once prominently displayed in every hotel lobby, is nowhere to be seen in five-star establishments that have undergone expensive refurbishments for what is being labelled as the "summit of the century". Although satellite dishes are officially banned, hotels are accommodating the 5,000 or so guests have access to the Atlanta-based CNN.

Outside the new marbled conference centre hangs a huge poster depicting the stern face of Ayatollah Khomeini and adorned with a slogan, "Islam humiliates and downgrades the superpowers". But with just one remaining superpower, it has an anachronistic ring. Moreover, Iran has since fostered close diplomatic ties with Russia.

Whether Iran succeeds in improving ties with its suspicious Arab neighbours will also depend to an extent on the outcome of a power struggle between conservative and moderate factions in Tehran, triggered by Mr Khatami's landslide election victory in May over a hardline candidate. A hardline newspaper, *Jonhoun-e Islami*, at the weekend advocated strict adherence to Khomeini's radical brand of "revolutionary Islam" as the only way to make the summit a success. But Kamal Kharrazi, the Foreign Minister, dismissed that view as "far from the position of the Government".



A Tehran mural depicts "satanic powers" trying to destroy Islam. But Iran has toned down its rhetoric



A Serbian child puts his grandfather's vote in a Belgrade ballot box yesterday

Serbia heads for election run-off

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

SERBS voted yesterday for the third time in as many months in an attempt to break the constitutional deadlock in a country already in economic and social crisis.

Last month Vojislav Seselj, the extreme nationalist, came close to replacing Slobodan Milosevic, who now occupies the supposedly more ceremonial

role of Yugoslav President. Victory was denied him only because the turnout was a few thousand short of the required 50 per cent.

Mr Seselj's homespun recipe of xenophobia, hard work and discipline is an increasingly attractive proposition for a people desperate to escape poverty, gangsterism and chaos. Mr Seselj and Milan Milutinovic, his Socialist rival, were ahead in the

seven-man field, and another run-off in two weeks' time was expected.

□ Sarajevo: International monitors said Bosnian Serb nationalists loyal to Radovan Karadzic, indicted for alleged war crimes, lost ground in last month's elections to the Western-backed President Plavsic and failed to secure a majority. (Reuters)

Robin Cook, page 20

WORLD IN BRIEF

Houston elects its first black mayor

Washington: Lee Brown, President Clinton's former drugs czar and a former New York City police commissioner yesterday became the first black Mayor of Houston, Texas, after a tight race (Tom Rhodes writes).

Mr Brown, 60, defeated Rob Mosbacher, 46, a wealthy local oilman, by a margin of just 4 per cent after a late surge among black voters. He had deliberately avoided making race an issue in the campaign, but the theme was rarely below the surface in a city where two thirds of the 1.8 million population is black or Hispanic. The campaign had drawn luminaries to both sides with President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore endorsing Mr Brown, while former President Bush backed the Republican candidate.

Cambodians in peace rally

Phnom Penh: Sam Rainsy, the opposition politician, staged a mass demonstration in the Cambodian capital for peace, drawing thousands of people (Caroline Gluck writes). Buddhist monks and soldiers, including amputees in wheelchairs or using crutches, marched along a four-mile route to a pagoda on Phnom Penh's outskirts. The last rally staged by Mr Rainsy in March was ended by a grenade attack which left at least 16 dead and more than 100 injured. The march was given government permission after organisers agreed to reroute it away from the heart of the city.

Basque banks attacked

San Sebastian: Hooded youths attacked three bank branches with petrol bombs in overnight incidents of violence in northern Spain's Basque region after the imprisonment of 23 members of Herri Batasuna, a Basque independence party, police reported yesterday. Two bank offices in the town of Azpeitia and another in the coastal city of San Sebastian were damaged in the attacks, which followed others carried out in the region on Saturday. (AP)

Turks bomb Kurd rebels

Diyarbakir: Turkish jets have launched bombing raids on Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrilla positions in northern Iraq. A military official said two F16s took off from Diyarbakir airport to attack rebels in the Khwakurk area. Earlier, 10,000 Turkish troops crossed the border to join an Iraqi Kurdish group and thousands of Turkish soldiers already campaigning against the PKK in Iraq. (Reuters)

Anti-polio battle launched

An Indian baby receives polio vaccine from a health worker in Delhi as India's Prime Minister, launched the last phase of an anti-polio campaign aimed at immunising 125 million children. He administered vaccine to 22 children in Assam and called for the disease to be stamped out within two years. (AFP)



Dogs killed in truffle war

Perugia: Two skilled truffle dogs were killed by poison as a war between hunters of the fungi in central Italy intensified. The Ansa news agency said. More than 30 valuable dogs, which sniff out the black and white truffles, have been killed by strychnine since the start of the season in October. Truffles can fetch more than £1,800 a lb. (Reuters)

African killer butterflies threaten to wipe out Spanish geraniums

FROM GERTREUD LITTLE IN MADRID

THE geranium which decorates balconies and plots across Spain, is in danger of being wiped out by a plague of African butterflies.

Cacyreus marshalli, the geranium

bronze, has already decimated the flowers on Majorca. Scientists say it has now crossed to mainland Spain and will sweep across the country in a few years. The butterfly, which is brown with white wingtips, comes from South Africa and is believed to have reached Majorca in imported

geraniums in 1987. While its numbers in Africa are controlled by predators, it has no natural enemy in Spain. "It is impossible to eradicate," said Alberto Masó, a botanist. Gardeners and hoteliers in Majorca are already replacing geraniums with other plants. The butterflies

larvae and caterpillars destroy the plants by eating into their buds. Eggs are often injected directly into the buds, allowing them to be devoured from the inside. Only the application of a strong insecticide every two weeks can save the plants, although even this is difficult when the larvae

are inside the buds. Geraniums are big business in Spain and the nation's most popular ornamental plant. Some ten million plants are grown for sale every year.

Experts say the butterflies have been found in Rome and will spread in southern Europe.

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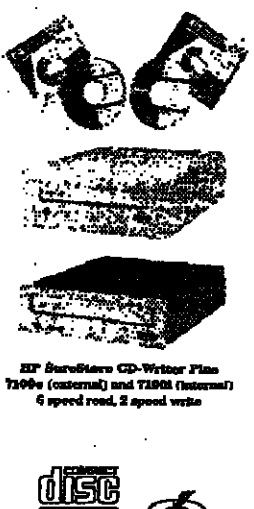
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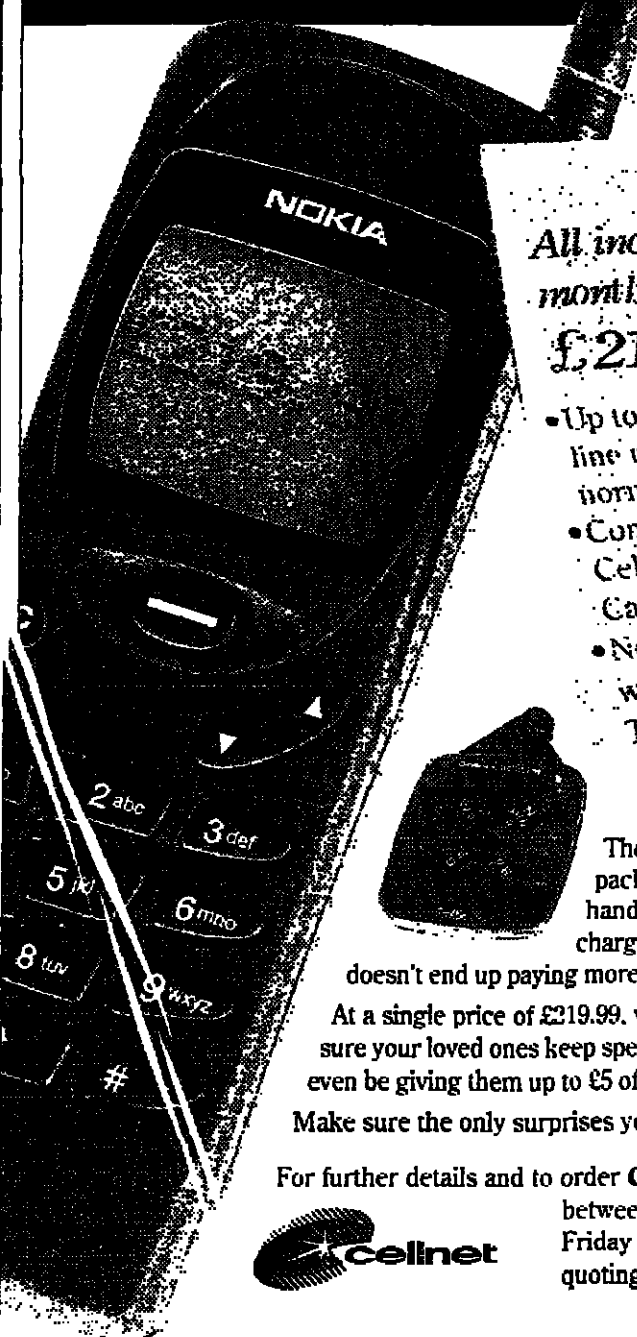
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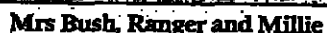
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By Tom Rhodes

Arranged by Tony Harrington, the

Roy Rowan, an expert on presidential canines who recently published *First Dogs, American Presidents and their Best Friends*, said that 54

been on hand when history hung in the balance. After the Cuban missile crisis, the Cold War thawed when Nikita Khrushchev brought

White House suggests the Mr. Clinton may have learnt a lesson from the previous Democratic incumbent Grits, a mongrel bight to Washington by President Carter, did not last very long after it tiled many of the mansion's carpets.

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

Known as PDD, the President's directive was prepared by an inner sanctum of advisers from the National Security Council, the Pentagon, the CIA, State Department and members of the vice-president's office. "Most notably the PDD removes from presidential guidance all previous references to being able to wage a nuclear war successfully or to prevail in a nuclear war," said Robert Bell, a senior director for defence policy at the National Security Council. "The emphasis of his directive is therefore on deterring nuclear wars or the use of nuclear weapons at any level, not fighting with them."



scientists and engineers are already engaged in what they describe as the "replumbing of south Florida." The Army Corps of Engineers plans to reorganize 1,500 miles of the canals that snake through the region to redirect water along more natural routes.

But environmentalists nonetheless remain uncertain about the future of the much-visited "River of Grass," the vast prairie that historically extended from Orlando to the southern tip of Florida.

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هكذا من الأصل

Prostate cancer is the hidden killer for men. In 20 years time one in four British men will have developed the disease. This year *The Times* as part of its Christmas appeal is supporting everyman, set up by the Institute of Cancer Research. The funds raised will help the institute's search for a genetic cause. **Adrian Morris and Dr Thomas Stuttford report**

By 2018, one in four men in Britain will have prostate cancer. More immediately, 16,000 men will learn next year that they have the disease. They and their families will also discover, to their despair, that there is no mass screening programme, little research, unpleasant treatments and no guarantee of cure.

They will be told that operations, which do not always result in success, carry high risks of impotence and incontinence, and that many doctors counsel against them. They may prefer not to learn that the cancer will eventually kill 11,000 — a startling 70 per cent — of them.

It is not surprising that prostate cancer has become known as the "hidden disease". The condition has been overshadowed by the coverage afforded to cancers of the cervix and the breast, which rob families of sisters, mothers and wives. Sadly, as long as it remains neglected, prostate cancer will continue to rob families of brothers, fathers and husbands. This is why *The Times* has chosen this Christmas to support the everyman appeal set up by the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), which is trying to identify the genetic basis of the condition.

The lowly status of prostate cancer may also be due to the fact that it affects men from about 50 upwards, a group whose ailments tend to attract little sympathy. Often it is perceived as a disease of old men who do not have long to live," says the ICR's Professor Colin Cooper, who will head Britain's first centre for biological cancers. "But it's not uncommon to find men under 40 with familial prostate cancer."

For every £1 spent on breast cancer, only £1.5 is spent on prostate cancer. Another reason for its low profile is that prostate cancer affects men in areas they would rather keep private: surgery to remove the prostate, a male sex gland, can cause incontinence and impotence, threatening male independence and virility. Men are notoriously reticent about medical matters. President Francois Mitterrand of France, perhaps the best-known victim, kept his condition secret during most of his tenure.

The prostate is a chestnut-sized gland under the bladder and in front of the rectum. The gland, whose secretions contribute to seminal fluid, is only a few grams at birth, but swells gradually to about 20g during puberty. The prostate starts growing

again at about the age of 50, and this can lead to trouble passing urine because of pressure on the bladder. However, in many cases, renewed enlargement remains harmless.

Prostate cancer is due to a malignant growth on the outer part of the gland. First signs include difficulty in passing urine, a poor urine flow, and frequent toilet visits. There might also be blood in the urine.

Some of these problems are typical of a benign enlarged prostate. However, the urinary symptoms do not always appear. This is why prostate cancer is so deadly — in at least half of cases, it is not until a man experiences pain in his back and legs that he will seek medical advice. Unfortunately, such pains signal that the cancer has spread to the bones, making it even more difficult to treat.

The cause, as with many other cancers, is unknown. However, vegetarians enjoy a much lower incidence of the disease. Men in the Far East have a much lower rate than men in Western cultures. Britain and America, who indulge in a high-fat, high-meat diet, top the league.

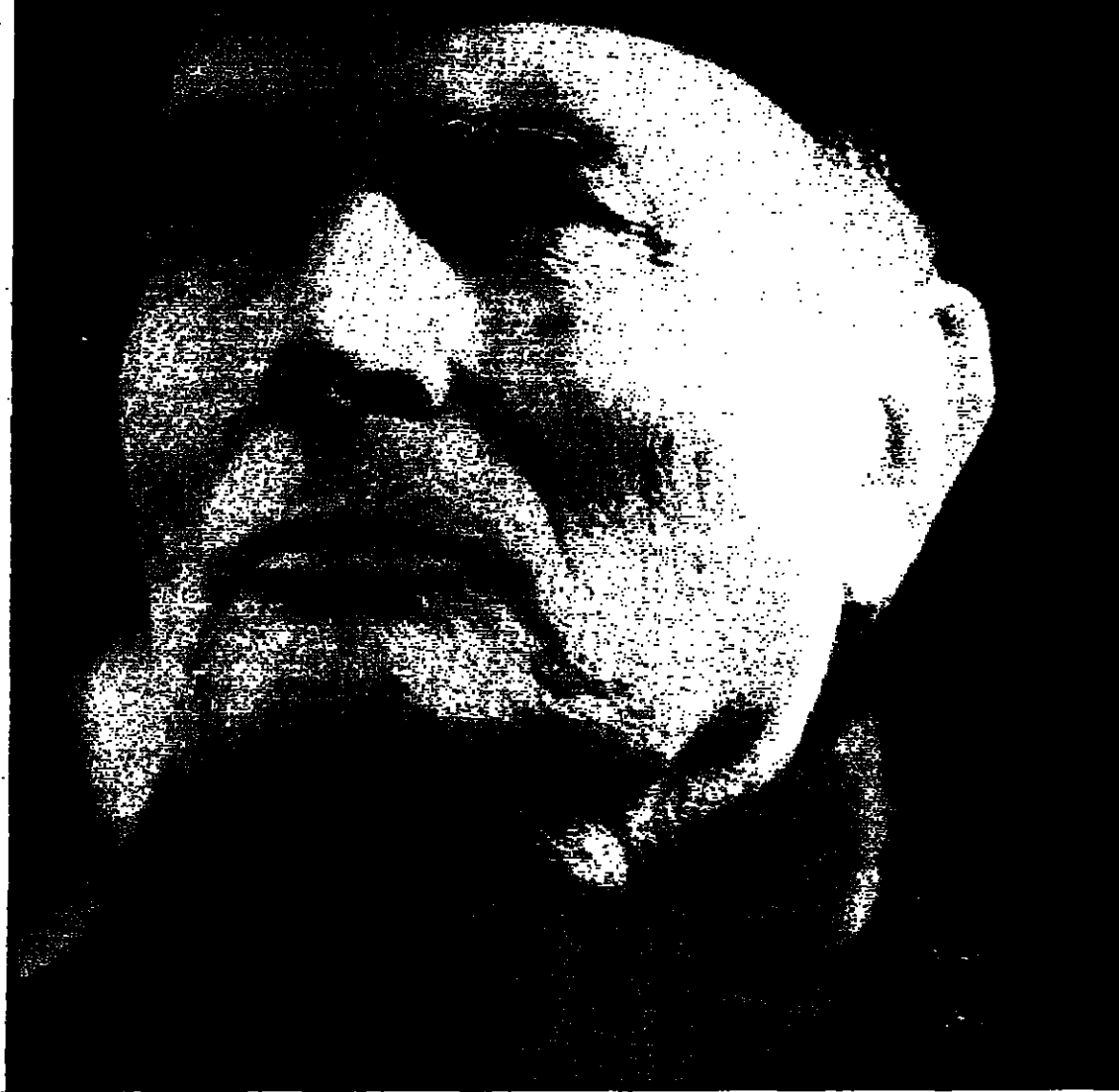
The disease tends to run in families, suggesting that susceptibility may be genetic. Testosterone, the male hormone, is implicated too; drugs that suppress testosterone are often used to control the disease.

A blood test can provide an initial clue about whether the disease has developed. The PSA test measures levels of prostate specific antigen, a protein that is always present in the prostate but is generated in greater quantities in the presence of cancer cells. A score of up to four means a clean bill of health; scores above that require additional testing. Results of about 15 or more indicate that a man is "very likely" to have cancer.

However, the PSA test is not a diagnostic and merely identifies cases that warrant further investigation. Rectal examination, ultrasound scans and biopsies are used to make a definitive diagnosis.

There have been calls to make the PSA test available to every man over 50. But a controversial report by the National Health Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, at York University, earlier this year ruled against mass screening. A screening programme, the report said, did not reduce the death rate and would cause needless anxiety. Dr Sue Moss, an epidemiologist at the ICR, who was involved in the assessment, adds that there are other problems with a screening programme.

The disease that affects men in areas they prefer to keep private



Francois Mitterrand, the late French leader, kept his prostate cancer secret for most of his presidency

"We concluded that screening was not effective because it didn't reduce mortality," says Dr Moss. "But we did conclude that we needed to see more research. We would like to see a trial of screening carried out." However, general uncertainty about treatment remains. "If you identify all the cases, there is a still a question of what you do with them."

This dilemma has arisen in America, where in the past few years, the proportion of men with prostate cancer has risen sharply, and it is now five times higher than in Britain. This, suggests Professor Cooper, is almost certainly down to the widespread availability of the PSA test — although there is evidence that testing is reducing the death rate.

"The problem here is that testing would place a terrible burden on the NHS," says Professor Cooper. "We could expect five times as many men to be diagnosed. That means five times as many would need radiotherapy or a radical prostatectomy. I am not sure the NHS could take it."

Details of how to contribute to the appeal, page 6. Leader, page 21

Money or your life

Costly it may be, but screening in good time can reduce fatalities

DIAGNOSING prostate cancer is easy only when the growth is so far advanced that cure is not possible. Even the most skilled urologist, or genitourinary physician, is unable to detect 40 per cent of significant tumours in the prostate.

The inevitable inaccuracy of diagnosing by rectal examination has tended to discredit the value of prostate screening. And this uncertainty has intensified the need to discover a reliable diagnostic tool that can be operated by any doctor. It was hoped that the prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test would be such a device, but its reputation has been blighted by a high level of false positive results.

More refined PSA tests are being introduced, but they, too, are still not perfect. Some doctors who pride themselves on the sensitivity of their fingers, and their expertise at physical examination may resent the idea that any newly qualified doctor with a syringe, and access to a laboratory, is now able to achieve equally accurate diagnostic results. Professional rivalry is not the only reason the PSA test has been derided by some senior doctors. Medical politics, too, have undermined its use. For treatment of cancer of the prostate threatens to be one of the great drains on the Exchequer during the next 20 years. The sooner the cancer is detected, the better, in terms of the patient's chance of survival — but this comes at huge cost to the NHS.

Even now, cure can be achieved in early diagnosed cases through radical treatment, whether surgery or radiotherapy — but it is expensive. It is easy to understand that those whose main concern is to balance the books, rather than treat individual patients, may be ambivalent towards screening seemingly healthy patients. If successful, that will result in the increased diagnosis of a costly disease destined to ruin budgets at every level of the health service.

Part of the politics of the PSA controversy is ageist-based. An expert on medical finance was reported to have suggested that saving the lives of elderly men should not be the priority of the NHS.

The official argued, albeit privately after a meeting, that these men are either unproductive, or about to become unproductive. Not only is their treatment appallingly expensive, but if it does rescue them from an early death from prostate cancer, they are likely to fall prey to some other disease.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

British people spend far less on health than other comparable countries, and those working in the NHS have come to accept a rationing of their services which would not be, and is not, sanctioned elsewhere. Once there is rationing, and the medical equivalent of a siege mentality has become established, keeping the elderly alive ceases to be a major concern.

Some of those who are opposed to PSA and prostate screening have been unwittingly influenced by apparently respectable medical arguments put forward by fearless men in grey suits who feel that their first considerations should be financial, so that money may be saved to treat what is, in their opinion, a more deserving section of the community.

When I found that my own PSA test was elevated, I thought that the hope of long-term survival far outweighed any anxieties about the transitory discomfort of a prostate biopsy. In a democracy, the opportunity to make the choice I had because I am a doctor should be offered to all men.

TOMORROW

The controversial debate continues over the best treatments; plus how the fear of impotence is stopping men from seeking help

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U-turn on women's direction

TRAVELLING by Tube is disorientating. When you emerge at a strange station, it takes a while to get your bearings. But Professor Mary Ann Baenninger, a psychologist from the University of New Jersey, was astonished to discover that her husband always knew which way he was facing when he emerged from the New York subway. He did it by keeping mental track of each change of direction during the journey.

Professor Baenninger tried the same technique and found it worked. She then wondered whether the notion that women have a poor sense of direction might simply mean that they were paying less attention. The current issue of *American Scientist* reports on her experiments. She and Kersten Elenteny, an undergraduate, tested 120 students who had never visited New Jersey University. One by one — and without being told the purpose of the experiment — they were given a campus tour, ending at a new music building. Just before entering the building, the tour guide pointed out the Green Hall with its clocktower. The students were then taken on a rambling tour of the building. When they reached a windowless room in the basement, they were asked to point in the direction of Green Hall. Men were far better at this: on



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

average pointing within 20 degrees of the right direction. Women, on average, missed by 60 degrees.

This suggests an innate superiority in direction-sensing among men. But then the psychologists repeated the experiment — but before the music department tour began, they encouraged the students to remember where Green Hall was. This time, women and men got within 15 degrees of the right direction.

They showed a further group a plan of the music building either before the tour, after it, or allowed them to carry it. All these alternatives improved the women's pointing accuracy, especially being allowed to carry the plan with them, but it made no difference to the men.

"I think there are biologically-based differences between men's and women's directional sense," says Professor Baenninger. "But I think that a greater amount of variability between men's and women's performances, particularly when it comes to everyday spatial tasks, is accounted for by experimental and motivational factors." In other words, men learn to pay attention to direction more than women — but women are just as good at it given the right motivation.

The monkey mothers who abuse their young

CHILD abuse in macaque monkeys seems to have close parallels to that in humans. A study in the US has shown. Abusers are concentrated in relatively few families, and the habit passes from generation to generation, says Dr Dario Maestripieri of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

The commonest form of abuse is "infant dragging" in which the mother drags the baby along by the tail or leg. Abusive mothers also push, throw, or even step on their infants. "This behaviour is never shown by good mothers," Dr Maestripieri told *New Scientist*.

He constructed maternal family trees for the monkeys from records going back 35 years. These recorded all births, deaths and injuries in the group, details of autopsies following infant deaths, and observations of violent behaviour by mothers.

He found that rhesus and pigtail macaques were especially prone to abusing their infants. Of 700 rhesus macaques, 20 were identified as abusers, and they came from just eight families. In one family of pigtail macaques, he found, five sisters all abused their young.

Dr Maestripieri says that abusive mothers are not neglectful, spending more time grooming their young than other mothers do.

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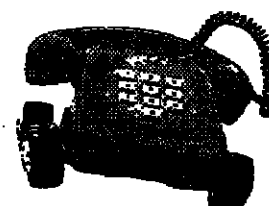
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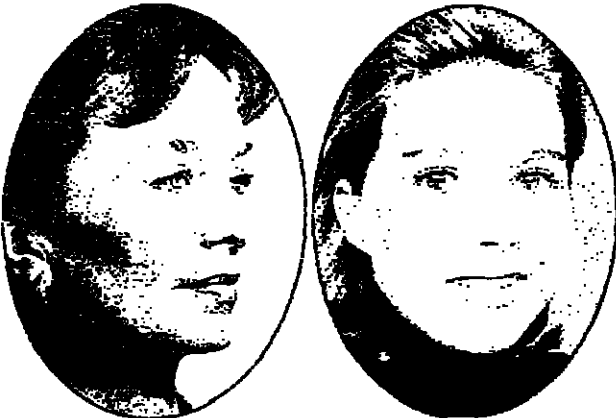
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Poached, lunched and published

Literary agents are now the new wheeler-dealers, says Janine di Giovanni

I have just seen Oliver Stone's *Wall Street* for the tenth time since it was released in the 1980s. Watching it, I had a pang of longing for the richness of those days. All those shoulder pads, those Armani suits, those million-pound deals being clinched in a single telephone conversation. It makes one wonder where all that wheeler-dealing, fast-track life has gone. Has it disappeared into the caring, sharing 1990s? Or worse, has it succumbed to what this month's issue of *Tatler* says is the buzzword of the decade: tenderness?

No, because somewhere on this planet, there are canny wheeler-dealers, but they no longer exist in the City. The Gordon Gekkos of the 1990s are literary agents. Frenzied book auctions — such as the selling of this year's Booker winner Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*, or a recent auction of the first novel of 22-year-old Zadie Smith — are more exciting than the Nabisco merger. The quest —



The agents Pat Kavanagh, left, and Georgina Capel

by at least two agents — to capture the recollections of Countess Spencer was thwarted only by her sudden divorce agreement with its confidentiality clause. And the Frankfurt Book Fair, held every autumn, has more energy than any City trading floor, but with the same philosophy behind it. Money, deals, and people being bought and sold, created and destroyed, overnight. Like the City, the business of

agenting is seductive and alluring. To be a good agent, one needs several characteristics: the killer instincts of a jaguar, the intuitive powers of a Mystic Meg and the nurturing abilities of a Sicilian matriarch. You must be able to give good lunch, without any of this no-alcohol nonsense, and have a keen survival instinct. You must be patient enough to massage the egos of insecure writers, and able to allow

yourself the occasional sycophancy towards publishers. You also need to have your finger on the pulse of the literary world, and know what will be the next trend. This means membership, and regular appearances, at the Cobden, Garrick and Groucho Clubs, and having a credit card flexible enough to chase down potential authors to the four corners of the world.

David Godwin, who is the hot agent this year, has jumped on aircraft to India, Canada and America with no notice in pursuit of a deal. His gamble paid off on several occasions. Most notable was the Indian journey, because he was met at Delhi airport by a then unknown author, Arundhati Roy. He left with her manuscript under his arm, and her undying loyalty.

Godwin is one of the new breed of agents invading the formerly stuffy old-boy network, most of whom, like him, started out on the editorial side of publishing. When he worked at the publisher Jonathan Cape, Godwin was renowned for bringing in "literary" authors such as Martin Amis, Graham Swift and Ben Okri. He was a nice guy. Everyone liked him and wanted to go to his raucous annual Christmas party. He achieved some notoriety when *GO* magazine featured him in black leather, like Claus von Bülow. Then it went sour. Random House, the conglomerate under which Jonathan Cape was imprinted, changed drastically and one day Godwin was out of a job.

It took him about five minutes to reinvent himself. He loved books, but everyone knows there is no money in publishing (unless you own the company), and Godwin has a big family. Agenting, however, is rich with possibilities. Look, for instance, at the success of Andrew "The Jackal" Wylie, the American who got Martin Amis the money for his new teeth. Or Caradoc King from A.P. Watt, who gets the novelist Philip Kerr "generous book deals" that are then spun into "massive" film deals by Kerr's West Coast agents, CAA. Or Caroline Dawnay who commands "substantial" sums for Nick "Fever Pitch" Hornby.

David Godwin's early forays into agenting were not so successful. He irritated people because he ignored the unspoken rules. He poached clients, assuming that if the authors were willing to move, it was fair. He started out with five. Five years later, he had 60, including two Booker Prize winners, a racing driver (Stirling Moss), a former drug dealer (Howard Marks), a rock star (Ben Watt of Everything But The Girl) and, I admit, me. This year he had two authors shortlisted for the Booker Prize, and one of them won. Godwin went home in a white limo, a detail of which he is extremely proud. The last time one of his authors won, there was no room in the car, and he was left in the rain.

Last week he poached Claire Tomalin, a biographer who is regarded as both a financial



David Godwin's early forays into agenting irritated people because he ignored the unspoken rules and he poached clients

and literary acquisition. He swiped her from Pat Kavanagh, the wife of Julian Barnes, who, a few years ago, was the hot agent. Agenting, even Godwin will admit, is a ruthless business. Why did Tomalin defect? In the words of one London publisher: "Because David Godwin is so hot, he's smoking."

Agents also need to be able to lie, and to be able to lie, and to be able to lie. The novelist Elissa Segrave, for instance, says she is always surprised at how cheerful Caroline Dawnay is whenever she rings. "She always sounds delighted to hear my voice," says Segrave. "Even if she is not." Dawnay's response is that all her authors are precious. "I think more in the long term," she says. She does not believe that it is wise early in a writer's career to ask for mega fees. "It is a big mistake. I think agents can be too greedy for their clients at an early stage. It is important to take the trouble not to go for the fast buck."

When I ring around among publishers, inquiring who is hot at the moment, the same few names always crop up. David Godwin, Johnny Geller from Curtis Brown, Derek Johns of A.P. Watt, Georgia Garrett from Andrew Wylie.

Interestingly enough, all of them are fairly new additions to the agenting scene. One editor, Virginia Bonham-Carter, from Fourth Estate, agrees with the list, but adds: "I think the hot shots are also — and I'm not being ageist — Gillon Aitken and Pat Kavanagh." Both have been around the publishing world for a long time. Maggie McKernan, head of Phoenix House, quickly cites Godwin and Geller, and also Georgina Capel, another young addition, who recently sold Julie Burchill's *Diana, Princess of Wales*, book for "a lot of money" (no one will ever go on the record with specific sums).

Others mention Georgia Garrett, the glamorous former editorial director at Picador.

She just clinched a big deal for Zadie Smith, getting her a two-book contract at Penguin after a hotly contested auction. All Garrett had to buy was the 100 pages that Smith, a Cambridge graduate, had written. It is interesting to note the language that people use to describe the talents: hot, not hot, smoking, definitely uncool. It reminds me of bond traders discussing their stocks and shares. But this is part of the new world. Once upon a time, agenting was very clubby and insular. All that changed when a new breed emerged, championed by Ed Victor, an American educated at Cambridge, whose thirst for literature equalled his thirst for getting big deals. Victor's philosophy was always that he

owed it to his clients to get them as much money as possible, and hey — Will Self, Iris Murdoch and the late Irving Wallace — are rarely disappointed. It was Victor who changed the entire format of agenting when he decided to export it, dividing his office between London, his Long Island retreat and Hollywood. "I can do a deal from anywhere," he has been said. That phrase again. The Deal. "Oh, the deal is not everything," early every agent I talked to said. "The important thing is the client." Of course. But me thing is clear. Gordon Gekko is alive and well and living at the Frankfurt Book Fair. One almost feels sorry for the jackals.

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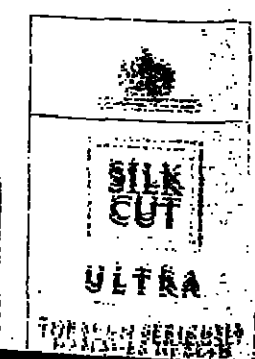
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The quarrel lay with Fletcher Christian. David Lean saw him as Lawrence of the Pacific. After some research I sadly concluded that Christian, my fellow Cumbrian, was a brat.

One of Lean's strengths was his clarity of vision, especially his vision about his heroes — and all his films are about heroes, usually British, men of qualities now thought comical if recognised at all. Perhaps his idealisation of the particular sort of plucky, stiff-upper-lip, enduring, handsome, honourable English hero was not unlike his inner vision of himself. For whatever reason he loved heroes, especially those who loved life, as he did, and he saw Christian as one of those.

He had recently spent years in the islands of the South Pacific with the young woman who was to become Mrs Lean No 5. And when he talked about it there was no doubt that he adored it. Those islands were beauty, harmony, sex, space and the perfect place for a new Lean hero.

Why David Lean's vision was not Christian

When we met he described his view of the mutiny on the *Bounty* and in particular his love for Christian. It was Christian's falling in love both with the islands and the girl which had captured Lean's obsessive attention and in that sense the film we were supposed to make together was autobiographical. This, more than anything, explained why he was prepared to risk a third production of the *Mutiny* film, and ambitious to do it as two two-hour feature-length movies.

Alas, when I got to work, Christian did not stand up to Lean's ideal. He was rather an over-indulged puppy from an influential well-connected Cumbrian family, and socially a cut above Captain Bligh. Bligh did the 20-year-old a fatal favour — motivated as much by social as by nautical considerations, I believe — and

appointed him above his experience in a crew whose average age verged on 18. Bligh himself was a grand old man of 30.

The extreme youth of the majority of the crew intrigued me. I thought a fresh view could be made out of that. And the class business was always intriguing. We had to have something new, I thought, and as I did my research I made two "discoveries".

The first was that Bligh was not the sadistic, lashing captain of legend. He was in fact outstandingly careful with his crews, introducing rationing which eliminated scurvy and regular exercise on board which soon became the norm in the British Navy. He was also a brilliant navigator, eclipsed, if at all, in English naval history only by Captain Cook, his mentor.

The reason for his black reputation was, I discovered, a brilliant

MELVYN BRAGG



smear campaign conducted by Christian's friends and family. They knew that as Christian had led the mutiny then should the English Navy capture him and bring him back to England he

would certainly be hanged. Their only hope lay in mitigating circumstances. The way through, as they saw it, was to blacken Bligh and this they did by bribery and trickery and the bending of witnesses. Bligh's darkness meant that there could be some light for Christian should he return.

So Christian became the martyred youth, the golden boy goaded beyond measure. Thus he sailed through history and into legend and on to the screen with Bligh as the stage villain.

Christian was distorted too in this legend. After the mutiny he set Bligh and many of his young shipmates on a tiny boat which gave them a mockery of a chance of survival. Only Bligh's brilliance took the boat across 4,000 miles of open ocean with only six days' rations and no men lost.

Unlike the legend, Christian did

not at first return to Tahiti and to his "love" but, running scared, he went to another island where he slaughtered the natives (whom Bligh always treated with respect), built a stockade and then lost his nerve and ran back to Tahiti to loot provisions and women.

By then he had decided to found a little kingdom where the British Navy would never discover him. This he did and burnt his boat so that it could never be seen nor used for escape by men increasingly restless with his command. In his little kingdom civil and then racial war began within a few months.

What a story. I could hardly wait to spill it all out to Lean. His reaction went from eager anticipation to despair, to gloom and then to anger. The upshot turned out to be

worst result of all — a compromise. He could not relinquish his beautiful Christian. I would not relinquish my radical break with the cosmetic version. For weeks we went through the scenes, me darkening them, Lean lightening them; me pointing to Armageddon, Lean aiming for some kind of Paradise. In the end we parted company and he wrote his final version, I mine. Neither was made.

After a year or so we met again and became firm friends for the last years of his life. We never mentioned the *Bounty*. Sometimes I wonder why I just did not give in. Did it matter so much? Could I not have found a way to say "based on" or called it *The Legend of the Bounty*?

And yet, how wonderful that other film, the real story, could have been. Lean could have stepped over a barrier, as Olivier did when he went across to the Royal Court to do *The Entertainer*, and, like Olivier, he could have sailed into seas unknown.

Look out behind you, panto

Christmas productions of Gilbert & Sullivan will not be offering seasonal work to former cricketers or Gladiators down to their last net and trident, but sprightly revivals like this by Ian Talbot provide a merrier mid-winter entertainment than panto ever does. Differences between the two forms are many, but so are the similarities: young lovers beset by problems, villains with a sense of humour, and a contralto matron who generally sorts out the plot. Of course, the imperial difference is that G&S created the best theatrical songs ever to flow from British pens.

This production at the West Yorkshire Playhouse is the late Joseph Papp's reworked version that enjoyed record-breaking runs on Broadway and at Drury Lane in the early 1980s. Words and running order remained the same, but zippiest staging and zappier orchestration broke away from the decorously 19th-century traditions of D'Oyly Carte.

The Playhouse orchestra runs to only eight players, but three of these are percussion and a bass is the only stringed instrument. This gives us the zap. Paul Farnsworth's seaside set introduces the zip, with rounded dunes like heaps of demerara and blue rotating screws beyond them to suggest the rolling waves. Gulls hang poised in midflight, replaced by black bats for the ruined chapel scene of the second act.

OPERA

The Pirates of Penzance
LEA

The role of Pirate King often corners the reviews, but although Jeremy Harrison brings strength of voice to his singing the character needs a more muscular dash. Amusingly frumpish daughters of the Major-General (Paul Bentley) flutter nimbly: Audrey Palmer's grey-haired Ruth, the piratical maid-of-all-work, embraces young Frederic where Gilbert would never have permitted. The chorus staging by Gillian Gregory is admirable and when pirates and police stamp on (with cat-like tread) the effect is hilarious.

But the young lovers provide the occasion's great joy. Mark Umbers in, astonishingly, his professional debut, possesses heroic stature, can suggest transparent honesty, articulates his vowels with model clarity, and shows a sense of the ridiculous that avoids archness.

Absurdly unaware of his affect on susceptible women, it is his turn to gulp and raise his eyes aloft when Lucy Quick's enchanting Mabel fills the seaside air with her soprano trills. Together they form the serio-comic centre of a cheering evening.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Paul Bentley, as the Major-General, surrounded by his daughters (the unselfish Mabel, played by Lucy Quick, is far right)

Not for the faint of heart

PERHAPS it is my fault, perhaps Walt Disney's, but when I think of the story of Snow White I think mainly of a cute septet of mannikins stomping across the screen cheerily chanting an ode to work. I had forgotten that the envious stepmother asks a huntsman to gouge out the heroine's lungs and liver, and, thinking she possesses them, settles down to a nice dish of casserole stepdaughter. At the Young Vic, Leo Winger, one of several actors who traverses the scenes during the evening, is still eagerly licking the bowl when Thuthia Jayasundera's Snow White is being feted by seven grotesque puppets.

Three years ago the director Tim Supple brought a robust imagination to bear on what, thanks to Carol Ann Duffy's adaptations, proved to be remarkably authentic extracts from the Grimm archives. Now the same pair has returned to the same source with much the same success. Maybe the result is not always suitable for those of very young years or notably nervous disposition. But those who relish strange and wonderful stories told with a refreshing disregard for contemporary squeamishness should have a terrific time.

Supple and Duffy have made an offbeat choice of tales. *Rumpelstiltskin* is there, as is *Little Red-Cap*, complete with Andy Williams's sauntering wolf snugly accoutred in donkey jacket, dungarees and big smirk. But so is *The Musicians of Bremen*, in which a vagrant donkey, cat, dog and rooster evict some robbers from their own house, and a story that ends with Dan Milne's swaggering hare bested in a race by homely but

wily hedgehogs. It is a good evening for underdogs, underdogs and underpeople, not least when the title character of *Brother Scamp* outwits a long-suffering St Peter, who has given him a bag into which he can magic anything he wants — including, as the saint did not foresee, his own body over the pearly gates into Heaven.

This curious tale comes out of the dark ages of folklore and the darker forests of the human mind, including as it does a scene in which Scamp tries ineptly to copy Peter, who has raised a dead princess by boiling her limbs white, laying them by her truncated torso, and then incanting prayers over them. Here, shamanism blends with Christian symbolism. Here, too, Supple achieves plenty with minimum props and maximum appeal to the audience's imagination.

A filleted wolf with a rock instead of a granny stitched into its tummy, animals' eyes hurled across the stage, etc. etc. Supple's inventiveness and/or nerve falter only at the end of *Rumpelstiltskin*, when the Grimms report that the thwarted goblin got in such a rage "he tore himself in two". Linda Kerr Scott's splendidly bony, clattering Rumpel could screech louder and self-destruct more spectacularly. But that apart, *More Grimm Tales* is a quirky, gory pleasure.

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Journeys without maps

ROBERT FRIPP, the founder and leader of King Crimson, made his first stage announcement for 13 years last Thursday, or so he claimed. He was about to explain to his Jazz Café audience that *Project One*, a line-up comprising King Crimson stalwarts Bill Bruford, Tony Levin and Trey Gunn, had been convened as one of several "sub-group, research and development projects", its function being to generate new ideas for use in future incarnations of King Crimson proper.

Unfortunately, the maestro had only just begun to cast forth his pearls when there was a genial shout from the swine in front of him. Fripp immediately spun on his heel and, without saying another word, returned to his stool.

POP

It was a pity that the guitarist's prickly nature did not permit him to relax and savour more fully the mood of adventure that was abroad during this entirely improvised show. Sitting in front of his amplification rack-cum-spacehip console, his feet gingerly moving this way and that amid a thicket of foot pedals, he conjured high, infinitely sustaining notes or quick, staccato shards of distorted noise, yet seemed oddly aloof and, at times, semi-detached from the action.

With no maps to follow, it tended to be Bruford who steered the combo from behind his drum kit and tuned percussion instruments. During the first number he and Levin, playing bass, launched into a fast, fractured funk rhythm. After negotiating many vertiginous breaks with apparent ease they eventually swept through to the finish as if they had practised it a hundred times before.

Gunn, meanwhile, confined himself to playing a stick, the thick-necked, stringed instrument with an extraordinary range of tones, from deep flatulent rumbles to a high-pitched clarinet sound. A mixture of the cerebral and the visceral, it was a literally unrepeatable performance, meandering at times, but leaved with sufficient bursts of genius to stoke the fires for albums yet to come.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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Forging a nation from the flames

Robin Cook on unfinished business in the Balkans

Tomorrow I shall be in Bonn to discuss Bosnia with Britain's partners including the United States, European Union members, Russia and international organisations — in the Peace Implementation Council set up as part of the Dayton agreement.

We shall be asking how far we have got in our efforts to bring about a lasting peace and what more we need to do to bring democracy and prosperity. We want, ultimately, to enable Bosnia to play a full part in modern Europe.

We have a long way to go. Bosnia barely functions as a nation, let alone one able to deal on equal terms with the democracies of Europe. But, two years after the Dayton agreement which ended the conflict, our goal at last looks to be within reach.

At Bonn we will set targets for Bosnia's future. It is right to recognise the achievements to date in implementing the Dayton agreement: the end of the fighting, the establishment of a Bosnian assembly and other central bodies in which Bosnians, Serbs and Croats sit together; the holding of local elections; the reductions in the number of heavy weapons. But in all of this, most of the hard work to date has been done by the international community. We have kept, even sometimes exceeded, our part of the bargain. But what about those in Bosnia itself? The efforts of the international community cannot make up for the inactivity of Bosnia's leaders. We cannot play their part for them. My main hope for Bonn is that it will issue a wake-up call for Bosnia's leaders.

Too often they have been prepared to make progress only grudgingly, prodded into action by the international community. They must now live up to their responsibility to lead the Bosnian people into the modern world.

The Bonn conference will address four key areas where the Bosnian people deserve a better deal.

Human rights: 1.5 million refugees, within Bosnia or abroad, remain displaced. The authorities need to create the conditions in which people can return home and be fairly treated when they do; the ethnic cleansing which characterised the conflict in Bosnia remains unacceptable. Reconciliation depends on justice. That means suspected war criminals standing trial in The Hague.

We have made progress: British SFOR troops mounted a brave and successful operation in Prijedor in July. Ten Croat indictments have been handed over to the International Tribunal in The Hague for fair trial.

The authorities in Bosnia and throughout the region must honour their legal obligation to hand over the remaining indictments. There will be no lasting peace unless indeed there cannot be, until all the indictments are brought to justice. This obligation is a key part of Dayton: failure to comply will affect many other aspects of peace implementation, since the communities cannot be expected to live with each other — and with them-

selves — until this stain on the past has been removed.

Open and fair government: the basic building blocks of a modern nation — currency, passports, citizenship — still need to be put in place. We will hold the new assembly and government in the Bosnian Serb Republic to the same standards of democracy as other Bosnian political institutions.

Transparency: I have been pressing for greater transparency in Bosnia's public finances so that those who should pay tax do so, and taxpayers know where their money is going. The European Union and World Bank have recently produced recommendations for tackling these and other problems. They need to be implemented.

Free and independent media: Bosnia needs a lively media, free from government control, across the whole country. People need information to make choices, to promote discussion and debate. This is essential and Britain has helped with equipment and programmes.

All these issues will be discussed at Bonn. If we can get agreement to make progress we shall have moved a significant way towards our goal of creating a stable Bosnia which has turned the page on the trauma of its recent history.

To keep up the momentum, the Bonn conference needs to reinforce the authority of the international community's High Representative in Sarajevo, Carlos Westendorp. He is responsible for implementing the civilian aspects of the peace agreement. He has a difficult task of breaking deadlocks and driving the process forward, but he has our full backing.

No one pretends that Bosnia can be transformed overnight. The devastation it suffered was incredible. But the experience of other countries in the second half of the 20th century suggests that it can be done, if people want it, and if there is visionary leadership prepared to meet the challenge.

No country since the end of the Second World War has had as much hands-on engagement from the international community as Bosnia. At Bonn we will show that there is a determination to finish the job, though it will be a long haul. The UK is prepared to stay the distance.

As Tony Blair made clear in Bosnia last week, our forces should stay for the foreseeable future if others do. We are in no doubt that a successor force to SFOR, whose mandate expires next June, must similarly be Nato-led, with the participation of all key allies whose successful efforts have underpinned the progress towards peace since Dayton. When Nato Defence Ministers met in Brussels last Tuesday, they committed work on a full range of options.

But ultimately, reconciliation and a lasting peace for a rebuilt Bosnia are not in our gift. It is time for Bosnia's leaders to deliver their side of the bargain.

The author is Foreign Secretary.

Gingrich comes to town with a timely, and unfashionable, restatement of Anglo-Saxon solidarity

Who is the most powerful man in the world? We all know the answer to that question. It is the President of the United States, Bill Clinton. But the President cannot raise a tax, or pass a law, without first obtaining the consent of a second man, Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr Gingrich is the second most powerful man in the United States, and therefore the second most powerful man in the world. Not only is he the leader of the Republican majority of the House of Representatives, but he created that majority. In 1994 he campaigned on the "Contract with America", he drafted it and all but one of the successful Republican candidates signed it. Most of the Contract with America is now part of American law. The Republican capture of the House in 1994 was the first such victory in more than 40 years.

Mr Gingrich was in London last week. I heard him speak three times, once on the Today programme, once at an off-the-record dinner given by Aron, the American oil company, and finally at a lunch in the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, given by the Institute of United States Studies of London University, with Baroness Thatcher in the chair. He got an off-the-record standing ovation at the off-the-record dinner; he was received with enthusiastic attention in Lincoln's Inn; whether he got a standing ovation in the Today studio I doubt, but there may have been a faint rattling of earphones.

There is no doubt that Newt Gingrich is an exceptional politician, in the United States or anywhere else. He is, to a reckless degree, a man of ideas. He is not engaged in the essentially boring business of polling public opinion in order to find out what people already think and then turning into soundbites what he finds that they believe. That, after all, is a

Trust Newt to think the unthinkable

task which could, in principle, be performed by a computer just as well as by a human being; perhaps better.

Mr Gingrich thinks his own thoughts, which tend to be both original and provocative, and then tries to persuade the electorate he is right. For this, he is admired and disliked to an almost equally high degree. In London he started saying the unthinkable by stating on the Today programme that in his view, "the Channel is wider than the Atlantic". American politicians are not supposed to say that nowadays.

The politically correct view is that Britain belongs to Europe, that the United States of Europe is inevitable, that Old King Kohl is a merry old soul, and that American policy must be based on a three-legged stool of the United States, which is the longest leg, Europe, the middle length leg and Japan, the shortest leg. That is the geopolitical orthodoxy of American policy, reinforced by the fact that Britain is known to contain large numbers of White Anglo-Saxon Protestants, the most politically incorrect ethnic group in modern American academia.

The great Newt not only expressed his heretical view on the Today programme, he reinforced it by his subsequent analysis. He observed that the United States found itself alone with the United Kingdom in its view of the "real" threat of Saddam Hussein. Most Americans know that this is so, but do not think it polite to

say it. He talked about political democracy being based on the Anglo-American philosophy, which he traced back to Magna Carta, and to the experience of Britain in the civil war of the 17th century. He believes that the Anglo-US model is one in which God lends power to the individual and the individual lends it to the State, but that the Continental model has a quite different basis. There it is the State which gets the divine right, and the individuals who do what the State tells them.

William Rees-Mogg

He has also observed that the British as well as the American economies are now working better than those on the Continent. He is concerned at the levels of unemployment in France and Germany, and is amazed at how little serious debate there has been. He asks whether this unemployment is cyclical or structural, and clearly believes it to be structural. In short, Newt Gingrich has observed things about the reliability of the Anglo-American relationship and the economic and political culture of the European Union which most American politi-

cians have preferred not to notice. Most of them share the French view of the future of Europe, which is strongly anti-American, rather than the Thatcherite view which is equally strongly pro-American. Newt Gingrich is pro-American.

The next battle Mr Gingrich will be fighting will be the mid-term Congressional elections of 1998. He is confident the Republicans will win again and that should give him a third term as a Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives. He will decide the Republican platform for these elections, and that will have a very strong influence on the platform for the presidential election in the year 2000. He might even then become the Republican candidate; he generates more new ideas in the minute than most of his rivals can generate in a year, though that is not necessarily an advantage. The possibility that he might become the next President of the United States will give him added strength in the 1998 Congressional elections.

As Speaker of the House, he intends to set new goals for the future of America. He is fascinated by the impact of new technology, and believes that the American lead in defence technology is still growing very rapidly, to the point at which the United States will have something close to a monopoly of advanced defence capacity in the early years of the next century.

He believes that Americans must

continue to accept the role of world leadership, in order to control developments which could damage the United States and the rest of the world.

Mr Gingrich asks how the leading nations can best handle the challenges of the global economy in the information age. He believes that small is beautiful. He believes in downsizing the State. In peacetime he thinks that the United States government, at the federal and state levels, should not spend more than a quarter of the national income. He believes in low taxes, in low cost government and in encouraging small and medium-sized businesses. As businesses get larger, he considers that they become less able to innovate, slower moving and more bureaucratic. He also thinks that government is, by an order of magnitude, less efficient than private business.

Last week, as he told us at Lincoln's Inn, Mrs Gingrich was making a routine purchase in Washington. She had to queue for three hours to buy what she wanted, though it cost, as I recall, \$30. What was the purchase? It was her driving licence. In America, he said, we all live on two clocks; the private, which measures in seconds, and the government clock which measures in quarters of an hour.

Newt Gingrich is almost certain to win again in 1998. That victory, let alone a possible presidential victory for him or for his ideas in the year 2000, will reverberate across the Atlantic. If he could win on these ideas, our Conservatives will be looking very closely at them. His advice to them is to identify the problems, to name their goals, to say how they would try to attain them; they should leave the Government to make its own mistakes, if it does. That cannot be bad advice.

People who don't need people

Buzz words are disguising real

Labour successes, says

Peter Riddell

The Government is in danger of being taken less seriously than it deserves to be. The obsession with presentation is overshadowing substance. This feeds silly claims that it is all public relations froth and little substance. There is, in fact, plenty of substance. But you be forgiven for noticing just the glitz.

No initiative can be made without a media visit — a rundown estate, a school, hospital, a pensioner couple. Last Friday the Prime Minister popped up at Waterloo station to launch the logo for the British presidency of the European Union, and today and tomorrow there will be similar "events" to launch the social exclusion unit and the NHS White Paper. Parliament seldom gets a look, since it is not regarded as a media-friendly venue.

These policies are important and the events are well orchestrated. They reflect an American, presidential approach, as adroitly practised by Bill Clinton, of using the authority of his office to present new initiatives in non-political surroundings. This is a legitimate marketing tool.

What irritates me is the underlying attitude, the attempt to take the politics out of the inherently political. That is typified by the use of the word "people". This provides a favourably populist cloak over any Government idea. We have the "people's lottery" (to cover the diversion of some proceeds into Government programmes), a "people's Europe", and, worst of all, the "people's priorities", a term that Gordon Brown used twice in his Pre-Budget Statement. The Chancellor is far too intelligent not to realise that this is claptrap. Ministers had decided to reallocate money to



help pensioners and to encourage childcare in ways that they believe will be popular. These are Labour's priorities, not the people's.

The risk is that slogans distort the substance. The approving headlines which Mr Brown no doubt relished obscured the significance of what he is attempting on welfare reform. The Government is trying to transform the debate on poverty and unemployment by providing incentives and other bridges into work. Some build on what the Major Government began, but even if some of the details are arguable, the scale is much larger and the political impetus is greater. This is why Wednesday's threatened revolt by Labour MPs over single-parent benefits is so symbolically important. It is not only a test of the Government's willingness to stick to tight spending limits but also reflects

a clash of philosophies. Welfare to Work versus raising benefits.

It would also be wrong to dismiss the social exclusion unit as merely another taskforce. It represents a genuine attempt to cut across departmental boundaries to see what state agencies can do, working together, to tackle alienation and disorder on inner-city estates. That ties in with the proposals in the Government's schools Bill last week for education action zones in deprived areas to raise standards.

This adds up to an impressive social agenda. But it is not helped by gimmicky gestures or by pretending that these plans do not involve higher taxes. Mr Brown has raised taxes substantially, often in perverse ways.

For instance, any long-term policy for elderly people, as will probably be recommended by the new Royal Commission, is likely to stress the desirability of higher savings so people can afford private provision to reduce the burden on the State. But the Chancellor has made that much harder through the dividend tax on pension funds, the muddled proposals on individual savings accounts (which could reduce savings) and the end of tax relief for the elderly on medical insurance. This is partly because of his populist reluctance to tax directly — for instance by broadening the range of VAT or by raising its rate.

These pressures are underlined by the debate over public spending. Each department has now had an initial round of talks with the Treasury as part of the comprehen-

sive spending review, and ministers have just received a letter from Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary, asking them to prepare plans on the assumption that they will receive no increase above existing planned budgets for the rest of the parliament. It is no coincidence that Derry Irvine, chairman of the Cabinet's future legislation committee, is also on the public spending committee.

One of the criteria for obtaining a slot in the next legislative programme is whether a Bill saves expenditure or produces more revenue. (Mr Blair has, incidentally, limited sympathy for complaints by ministers about Lord Irvine's "not-suffer-fools" style since he had to suffer the same as the Lord Chancellor's pupil more than 100 years ago.)

The same contrast between glitz and substance applies over Europe. Despite all the fuss and effort going into the British presidency in the first half of next year, it is unlikely to make much difference. The really important event of 1998 is the German elections in the early autumn. Nothing is going to happen on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy or the EU Budget until afterwards. The Blair Government has achieved a greater influence in the EU than its divided predecessor, not least because other countries have been impressed by the scale of its victory.

But the symbolic European event last week was not the unveiling of the children's logo on Friday, but the earlier rebuff to Britain's desire to join the EuroX group of single-currency participants. While a fudge may be worked out at the Luxembourg summit later this week, Mr Blair's aspirations for a leading British role in Europe will mean little while Britain stands outside monetary union.

The paradox of this Government is that it is building a record of substance despite all the presentational razzamazz. Mr Blair has a good eye for what he calls the big picture. He should concentrate on that rather than "new Labour speak" vacillates like the "people's priorities", the "Giving Age" and the "young country".

Clear lead

BY investing millions in this country, Jackie Stewart is showing how spurious is the Government's argument that Formula One deserves to be excluded from a tobacco advertising ban. Britain's greatest motor racing champion, who receives no cigarette sponsorship, is moving his racing operations to larger premises and expanding his workforce in Milton Keynes. The Government justified its Formula One U-turn last month by saying that if the sport were unable to raise millions from tobacco advertising it would "emigrate" to the Far East at the cost of thousands of jobs.

In an effort to produce a world-beating racing team, Stewart is moving his base from boys and manufacturing business to a building almost twice as large as his present premises. He is also planning to expand his workforce from 160 to 250 by the end of next year. "It shows my confidence in British technology. After all, this is the world capital of motor racing," he says. "You can certainly build up a racing team without cigarette advertising on the car."

Soon after Tony Blair went back on his election advertising, Peter Mandelson wrote a newspaper article justifying the decision. "Britain makes 80 per cent of the cars and employs roughly 50,000 people in connected industries," argued the silver-tongued Minister With-

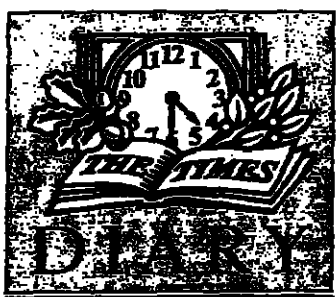


No smoke: Mandy, Stewart

out Portfolio. "To lose any significant part of the industry would be disastrous." The motor racing industry has now been given eight years to wean itself off tobacco; perhaps it should learn a few tips from Stewart.

Fair's fare

I AM pleased to hear that at 92 Lord Longford remains as deter-



mined as ever not to water down his beliefs, even against overwhelming odds. The earl, who has campaigned valiantly for the release of Myra Hindley, arrived last Friday by taxi outside Wandsworth prison for a visit. When told the fare was £12, Lord Longford expressed surprise, pointing out the last time he had been dropped at the prison he had been charged £7. "The driver and I had an altercation," he recalls. "Then we reached a compromise." The good earl handed over no more than £7.50.

Joyless rider

RATHER esoterically, the causes of crime are an issue that concerns Pádraig Flynn as the European Commissioner for social affairs. But last week he experienced the

real thing: his £100,000 S-class Mercedes became the victim of a carjacking a week after he had taken delivery.

The robbery happened shortly after Flynn had been dropped off by his driver in dreary old Brussels. As the chauffeur headed home, an assailant held a gun to his head, ordered him out and then got behind the steering wheel. It was the last that was seen of the gleaming, dark blue model. Wait for the launch of an EU-inspired crackdown on carjacking.

FOR once Ian Greer has something to celebrate. The lobbyist, who was dragged into the cash for questions imbroglio, caught sight of an evening newspaper billboard last week yelling "Fayed faces £10 million claim". Greer bought the poster and now has it hanging on his office door.

Sits. Vac.

MY latest bulletin on former Conservative MPs who are finding it hard to adjust involves David Nicholson. Once the representative of the good people of Taunton, he has since found employment in Tom King's office acting as a researcher, a job usually assigned to aspiring twentysomethings. Now, I

hear, his attempts to strike out in a new direction have met with disappointment. Nicholson tells me he sent off his credentials to Charles St George, managing director of PPS, a lobbying company, but with stiff opposition from his former colleagues, he failed to win the appointment. Worth £28,000 per annum. Any openings I hear of shall be promptly forwarded.

THE unfortunate blip in Gary Glitter's fortunes is good news for that other Seventies pop icon, Slade's Noddy Holder. Filming



"A handful of beans is quite a bargain, actually"

has just started in Liverpool on flourescencelove, a movie about a taxi driver with two wives, one of whom wins the chance to perform with Gary. After recent events, however, the producers decided to ditch the sequenced crooner. "It was a toss-up between him and Tom Jones," explains my man with the clapperboard.

Camera shy

LINDA McDUGALL, the television producer, fears she has landed her husband, Austin Mitchell MP, in a spot of trouble with the Serjeant at Arms's office at Westminster. While making Westminster Women, a documentary about female MPs launched tomorrow, she exploited fully the Commons pass issued to her as a Member's wife. McDougall gained access to parts of the building that had been barred to cameras in perpetuity.

For six months she gained on-screen exclusives by creeping around, ducking behind statues or waiting until the most fearsome characters in the Serjeant at Arms's office had left. "They say no for no good reason," she says. "Their aim is to keep people out. But I want to reveal things." Let's hope the powers at be do not come down heavily on poor Austin.



INES de la Sressange is suffering from ennui. The former Chanel supermodel, above, is fed up with Paris and wants to spend more time in Cool Britannia. "I'd love to open a shop in London but no one's asked me yet," she purrs. "The whole social thing in Paris is totally fake. It's all so stiff there. No one knows how to have a good time — I much prefer London, where people know how to party."

JASPER GERARD



MIDDLE-CLASS INTEREST

Welfare should be a safety net not an entitlement

To reform welfare, as Tony Blair has promised to do, you have to go back to first principles. What, ministers should ask, is the social security system designed to do? Like a rock long eroded and covered with barnacles, it is virtually unrecognisable from its early days. Stripping away the accretions that have gathered over the past few decades could help to reveal a more rational design.

As the nation has become richer and healthier, government spending on benefits has risen in real terms, faster than the economy as a whole. This explains why it is worth looking afresh, as the Treasury and the Social Security Department are doing, at the underpinnings of the structure. The new rule of thumb, it seems, will be that welfare should be seen as a safety net rather than an entitlement, taking it back to the real meaning of "social security".

If this ethos is applied to individual benefits, it becomes clear that, for instance, disability payments should be taxed. Those disabled people who were unable to earn money would still be as well off as before. But those who have an alternative source of income clearly need less from the State.

The same reasoning should apply to the universal state pension, which is paid at the same level to rich and poor alike. The pension was introduced at a time when life expectancy after retirement was just a few years, and in which hardly anybody had any other retirement income. Now the elderly can expect to live for 20 years or so after finishing work — and a large proportion of them have occupational or private pensions. Should the State really be paying billions of pounds a year to them when the money could go to a more deserving cause?

If means-testing were introduced for pensions, there would be a chorus of complaint that the system was meant to be contributory — those who had paid their "stamps" all their working life expected something back in return. Yet the "insurance" element of national insurance has long been little more than a charade. These revenues do not

cover the cost of the social security budget — and the only reason that they have not been subsumed into general income tax is because it would look as if the basic rate had risen by nine percentage points.

There would also be a largely synthetic uproar about the "indignity" of means-testing. But taxpayers have their means tested every year by the Inland Revenue and that is seen as part of the responsibility of being a citizen. If taxes and benefits could be merged, at least for pensioners, whose income does not vary in the course of the year, then means-testing could be done in a perfectly dignified way.

Universal child benefit and pensions used to be seen as the cement that kept the middle classes supporting the welfare state. But that was in the days when no professional person ever expected to be unemployed: job insecurity was for the working classes. Now that bankers, accountants and architects are as likely to lose their jobs as shipbuilders, miners and steelworkers, each has an equal stake in the "security" aspect of the system. These days anyone might find themselves claiming help for unemployment. The middle classes do not need a bribe on top.

Moreover, from what the Government seems to be planning, their reward would be the release of more money for public services such as education and health. The reason why the Treasury is desperate to rein in spending on social security is that it takes money away from more constructive spending. Under the Conservatives, public expenditure as a percentage of national income did not fall, but the proportion going on social security rose sharply at the expense of spending on public services.

So politically, the Government has a strong card, even if the individual arguments about each benefit turn out to be fierce. As long as ministers are careful to protect the poor from penury, they should feel free to take an axe to middle-class benefits. But in return, they must deliver results where they matter: in the public services upon which almost all of us depend.

HOPE FOR CHRISTMAS

With your help, prostate cancer can be conquered

Among the most exciting of recent discoveries have been the genes that control the development of some cancers. Identifying them offers no instant cures, but for the first time it does provide a true understanding of the origins and development of the diseases they cause. From such understanding better treatments and maybe even cures will ultimately come. This year, as part of its Christmas Charity Appeal, *The Times* is asking its readers to give generously to a project which will turn the spotlight on a cancer long neglected, but one that takes the lives of 11,000 men in Britain every year.

Cancer of the prostate has been too much ignored. A cynic has remarked that if the prostate were a female organ, we would never hear the last of it. That very comment is both a tribute to the readiness of women to campaign vigorously for research into cancers of the breast and womb, and a comment on men's reluctance to discuss any intimate matter with anybody, let alone their doctor. The taboos that still surround prostate cancer, combined with the tendency of doctors to dismiss it as "an old man's disease", have done its sufferers no favours.

The numbers involved are large: some 16,000 new cases every year. As the population ages, this may be expected to increase. By 2018, the Institute of Cancer Research estimates, one in every four men can expect to contract prostate cancer. The causes are complex, but almost certainly involve a combination of genetic predisposition and environmental influence, either in the diet or

at the workplace. Thanks to the huge strides made by molecular genetics, it is at last possible to contemplate teasing out these twin factors, leading to effective screening and better treatments.

Research is expensive, and research into male cancers has been grievously neglected. Compared with the £16 million spent annually in Britain on breast cancer research, a mere £1 million is spent on male cancers. Our readers, generous as they may be, cannot be expected to make good that shortfall, but this year's appeal gives them a chance of helping one of Britain's outstanding cancer laboratories to identify the prostate cancer gene. The Institute of Cancer Research needs a gene sequencer for its Sutton laboratory to speed the analysis of samples being provided by more than 100 hospitals.

This is a very good cause, at a moment of great opportunity in medicine. Many of today's successful drugs were based on inspired guesswork; the vaccines that have conquered so many infectious diseases were the result of luck at least as much as knowledge. If medicine could achieve so much with only partial knowledge, how much more will be possible when nature's secrets are laid bare? To put it another way, most of the easy triumphs are behind us. To conquer cancer will need a lot more than guesses. Only the best efforts of many researchers, working in collaboration, will be enough. We have the men and women: what they need are the tools to do the job. By giving generously, we can help provide them.

A FAMOUS DRAW

On the field as in life, fortune favours the bold

A drawn game is seldom a satisfactory result. The stimulated war of sport is for winners and losers. But those who sat in the stands, at Twickenham on Saturday, or watched the match on television, or even heard about it afterwards are saying that England's draw with the All Blacks was a memorable event. A score of 26-26 is a mammoth draw, about the highest ever scored at this level. It enters the calendar of great sporting occasions as one of the most exciting matches ever played. Both teams deserved to win, and neither deserved to lose. So the draw was the right result.

But like all such sporting sensations, it came as a bolt from the clouds. Before the match nobody had given England a prayer — not the press, nor the public, nor the realistic professionals. One bookmaker gave New Zealand odds of 33-1. The All Blacks wanted to end their northern campaign with a whitewash of 12 victories in the year, taking revenge for not having beaten England by more than 25-8 at Old Trafford a fortnight ago and confirming their claim to be the best team in the world.

It seemed impossible that they could lose. The crowd looked forward to a gallant defence by England against overwhelming odds. Twickenham is used to that plot. But after five minutes little David Rees started from his own ten metre line, chipped over giant Jonah Lomu, gathered his own kick-ahead at full speed, brushed aside an attempted tackle by the great Zinzan Brooke, and squirmed through two human torpedo

tackles to score in the corner. That was a sensational enough start for fiction. But after 15 minutes England had scored two more tries to go 17-3 up. It was the most stunning opening attack by underdogs that international rugby has ever seen.

It was written in the script that the All Blacks would come roaring back after the humiliations of the first half. They did, with the fluid, fast, relentless 15-man rugby that is their trademark. And when they scored two typical tries and took the lead for the first time, it looked like another heroic England defeat. But it was England who came back for the last ten minutes and deserved to snatch a draw from the jaws of defeat.

This match was an exhibition for the hard new game of professional rugby union. England played the New Zealand game of constant attack with ball in hand at speed across the whole width of the pitch with all 15 players playing every part. The All Blacks had the best of the game territorially and won the line-outs; but England scored three tries to New Zealand's two. So the traditionally dour Twickers crowd sang Jerusalem and stood for both teams. Children ran on the pitch aware that they had seen something special. The joy of rugby, as of any sport, is that on the day either side can win. Twickenham showed that the difference between the top international sides is not as great as was rumoured. England showed again that fortune favours the bold, the fit and the determined. And so for both sides and all witnesses it was a famous draw.

Opera House report 'a parody'

From Mr John Major, MP for Huntingdon (Conservative)

Sir, Several days after the publication of the select committee report on the Royal Opera House, I remain as concerned by its tone and its conclusions as when I first saw it (details and leading article, December 4; letters, December 5 and 6). It is a parody of the report that should have been produced.

Select committee reports are very important. They are taken as dispassionate, mature judgments and their conclusions can have serious implications on events and on individuals.

This suggests to me that they should err in understatement not overstatement. They should not be "trailed" for effect, they should acknowledge difficulties in dealing with complex problems, and, above all, they should demonstrate to be fair.

The report from the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee falls these tests. It uses the meretricious wisdom of hindsight to lay nearly all concerned. This is unjust. No doubt errors were made but the tone and conclusions of the report are unwarranted.

This is not the only unjust report recently. It was unjust that the Committee on Standards and Privileges ended the examination into the Neil Hamilton affair without testing the evidence or calling Mr Mohamed Al Fayed to give evidence.

I would like the select committee system to maintain its authority as a check upon government. The system must not fall into disrepute because of the eccentricities of individual reports. I have spent many happy hours at the Opera House and I know many of those criticised. The former chairman, Lord Chadlington is a friend whom I admire. So I will say little about the report's comments on Peter Chadlington — save this: he was appointed to solve a long-running problem and was doing so. He was the solution, not the problem, and the recommendation that he should resign was bizarre. In my view he has the sort of dispassionate intellect that is ideally suited to the unravelling of complex problems.

Despite its criticism of others, the select committee itself has little worthwhile to offer by way of remedial action. It demands radical change but does not seem to know what that change should be. So it lamely recommends that Mr Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (who elsewhere in the report is criticised), should take over running the Opera House *pro tem*. In looking at remedies the select committee considered privatisation, noted its difficulties, flirted with a flotation, and concluded in favour of a *de facto* short-term nationalisation. Beyond that the committee contents itself with allocating blame.

This is the first report of the new select committee. Whilst it is a good read it is seriously deficient and unjust and such reports do not serve the Commons well.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MAJOR,
House of Commons.
December 7.

Free speech in prisons

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, The Court of Appeal's decision that prisoners may lawfully be prevented from talking to journalists (report, December 5) is as illogical as it is foolish.

If a prisoner writes to the Prison Reform Trust complaining about some aspect of his treatment, then I am free to publicise this information how I choose. Am I now to be banned from visiting such a prisoner for fear that he will repeat in person what he has said on paper?

In the initial High Court ruling, Mr Justice Latham suggested that one of the reasons for the Prison Services policy was to prevent the communication by prisoners of material which might cause further distress to victims. But if a prisoner can further his case by writing to the press, why should the newspaper then be prevented from following up his letter with a visit? Freedom of speech should not end at the prison gate.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW,
Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
The Old Trading House,
15 Northburgh Street, ECL.
December 5.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA McLEAN
(Joint Honorary Secretary,
Friends of Old Deer Park, Richmond),
4 Hunters Court,
Friars Lane, Richmond, Surrey.
November 29.

New housebuilding

From Professor Patricia McLean

Sir, The case for finding new words for "to develop" and "develop" is well made (letter, November 28; see also letter, November 29) in the light of pressures for building on greenfield sites and on our urban parks.

Is there not an equal case for finding a more friendly and positive acronym than the term "nimby" (not in my back yard) to describe those seeking to protect such sites?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA McLEAN
(Joint Honorary Secretary,
Friends of Old Deer Park, Richmond),
4 Hunters Court,
Friars Lane, Richmond, Surrey.
November 29.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Privacy, the law and media freedom

From Mrs Jocelyn Hay, Chairman of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer

Sir, Your leading article, "In a cloud" (December 3), raises disturbing questions about the unexpected impact which the Human Rights Bill, currently under consideration by the House of Lords, will have on the freedom of the press.

My organisation has grave concerns about its possible effects on broadcasters, especially public-service broadcasters such as the BBC, Channel 4 and the Welsh channel S4C, because under the Bill these channels may be classified as public authorities. If they are, they may be more restricted by the privacy provisions than other media, including commercial broadcasters such as ITV and BSkyB.

VLV believes that, as drafted, the Bill could seriously damage the traditional editorial freedom, independence, and indeed duty of public-service broadcasters to report news and conduct investigative journalism in the public interest.

We trust that the Lord Chancellor will give further careful scrutiny and thought to this matter before the Bill leaves the Upper Chamber.

Yours sincerely,
JOCELYN HAY,
Chairman,
Voice of the Listener and Viewer,
101 King's Drive, Gravesend, Kent.
December 4.

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, The Human Rights Bill, as your leading article says, makes it unlawful for a "public authority", meaning "any person certain of whose functions are of a public nature", to act incompatibly with a right conferred by the Convention. This does not apply to the "private" acts of such an authority.

You, Sir, have concentrated on attacking this definition because it may include the Press Complaints Commission. But the problems it poses go very much wider.

The terms public and private are notoriously imprecise. A great deal of litigation is going to be needed before anyone can say with assurance what is a public authority, and which are its excluded private functions.

The White Paper says the definition includes companies, such as privatised utilities, responsible for areas of

activity which were previously within the public sector. This is doubtful: a company is private when contrasted with, say, a local authority. Yet in law some are public, others private companies. The confusions are endless.

The answer is surely for the Bill to be amended so as to include a detailed list of the types of bodies and persons which are intended to fall within this provision.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
5 Old Nursery View,
Kennington, Oxford.
December 3.

From Mr Mike Jempson

Sir, Your leader backs Lord Wakeham's call (report, December 2) for the Press Complaints Commission to be exempt from the provisions of the Human Rights Bill.

The European Convention on Human Rights was drawn up by Britain and its democratic allies almost 50 years ago to combat the risk of fascism and communism. It may require some updating, not least because the fashion for privatisation has already diluted the power of the State and because commercial mass media have a firmer grip on the public than half a century ago. However, to dub it a "villains' charter", as some sections of the press have, and to seek exemption is wrong-headed and counter-productive.

The press are supposed to be the defenders of citizens' rights and the Bill will not prevent legitimate investigation of wrongdoing or hypocrisy in the public interest. It will, hopefully, put a stop to the publication of prurient stories simply to titillate readers and increase profits.

Far from opposing the Bill, journalists should be welcoming this strengthening of civil liberties. If we wish to restore public trust in journalism the best way would be to insist that the PCC should have the power to fine those who breach the industry's code, and compensate the victims of inaccuracy and intrusion.

Sincerely,
MIKE JEMPSON
(Executive Director),
PressWise,
25 Eastern Business Centre,
Felix Road, Bristol.
December 5.

those used to the old knee-jerk politics of oppositionism, but it is the common sense that people in the real world actually want.

Sincerely,
MALCOLM BRUCE
(Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesman),
House of Commons.
December 4.

From Mr David Rendel, MP for Newbury (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Harriet Harman must have been amazed at Matthew Parris's suggestion that the Liberal Democrats had been letting Labour off the hook on the subject of lone-parent benefit cuts.

On November 4, contrary to tradition, the Liberal Democrat peers forced a vote on the issue in the Upper House. My own social security team forced a special standing committee meeting in the Commons on November 12, and a further vote on the committee stage of the Social Security Bill on November 18, as well as making the only contributions lambasting the cuts in the Conservative opposition day debate on December 1.

Our efforts to encourage Labour backbenchers to join us in expressing abhorrence of these cuts have also led to co-sponsorship by two of them of our amendment to the Social Security Bill when it reaches its report stage in the Commons on December 10.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID RENDEL
(Liberal Democrat, social security and welfare team leader),
House of Commons.
December 5.

Rural attractions

From Mr Martin Pawley

Sir, Your two reports of December 4 on the decline of village life — "Good life can prove bad move for city folk" and "Desire for rural life cuts heart of villages" — verge on the clinically depressed. Surely the real point about private versus public transport in the country lies in the tremendous service performed by the car.

Only a tiny percentage of rural households are without the use of a car. It is the freedom it confers that makes modern country life as attractive as your figures prove it continues to be.

As for the disappearance of so-called services, these vanish because the market for them no longer exists. Supermarkets and freezers are better ways of feeding families; regional shopping centres stock more and better goods; schools consolidate into larger, better resourced units; unprofitable pubs become restaurants or are turned into houses; local libraries "close" but information and entertainment increases by leaps and bounds.

New country life hinges on private transport and electronic communications. Both are improving all the time.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN PAWLEY,
Church Wing, The Old Rectory,
Somerton, Bicester, Oxfordshire.
December 5.

Nazi gold deflects from 'real' issues

From Mr Hanno Koppel

Sir, The attention paid to the theft of gold by the Nazis is an invidious distraction (reports, December 2, 3, 4, 5).

Much more than mere gold was taken. For example, my grandfather's factory in Dresden was confiscated by the Germans in the 1930s. It was given to a company that, today, continues to exist as a successful, multinational conglomerate. This company enjoyed the profits of the factory for sixty years. Then, just before the reunification of Germany, the company asset-stripped it, demolished the buildings and sold off the site. We are now being allowed to apply, through the courts, at our own cost, for compensation for the value of the empty site.

The Germans have made so little effort to recognise the damage they have done, damage which continues to reverberate down the generations. The focus on a few millions in stolen gold risks giving the false impression that major wrongs are, at last, being righted.

Yours faithfully,
HANNO KOPPEL,
Student Counselling Service,
47 Park Place, Cardiff.
koppel@cf.ac.uk
December 5.

From Mr Paul Secher

Sir, I wonder if the Austrian journalist who accused the British Government of theft for holding on to assets belonging to Jews from enemy countries (report, December 2) appreciates the irony of the situation or whether, like so many Austrians, past and present, he simply prefers to ignore a few home truths?

In 1939, my father was present when Austrian Nazis entered his family business in Vienna, stole the entire stock, which together with the property, was handed over to party supporters. Later, the family home was occupied and its contents similarly redistributed. Such action was commonplace by a Government and a people whose enthusiasm for embracing Nazism and its worst manifestations was unparalleled.

Successful Austrian governments have disclaimed responsibility. No compensation or restitution has ever been offered or received. Whilst the Austrians were evicting many thousands from their homes and businesses, Britain accepted many of those, including my father, who were fortunate enough to escape from a homeland and a people who had betrayed them.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL SECHER,
80 Wood Vale, N10.
December 3.

Libyan hospitality

From Mr J. A. S. Burn, MC

Sir, I have recently been fortunate enough to be included in a visit to Libya by the Eighth Army Veterans Association to honour the memory of those that lie in war cemeteries in Tobruk, Benghazi and Tripoli.

The Libyan Government has been exceptionally generous in meeting all our expenses in their country and making every possible arrangement for our comfort and transport.

Although generally Libya receives a bad press in this country and the policies of its leader are at times questionable, I would like to put on record my appreciation of Libya's gesture, of the widespread friendliness of the people and to say how impressed I was with the efforts to develop the country and to improve the lives of the people.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. S. BURN
(7th Armoured Division, 1942-45),
Ivy Cottage, Cleve, Bristol.
December 2.

A boy named Shirley

From Mr Michael Harman

Sir, Today's obituary of Big Daddy (real name, Shirley Crabtree) is surely wrong in saying that the wrestler was named after the heroine of Charlotte Brontë's famous novel. Shirley (also his father's name) was traditionally a masculine cognomen.

The parents of Brontë's heroine wanted a son. Providence granting them one a daughter after eight years, they bestowed on her the name they would have used for a boy.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL HARMAN,
Holmwood, 37 Upper Park Road,
Canterbury, Surrey.
December 5.

National symbols

From Signor Raimondo Manzini

Sir, With typical fairness British friends have called to apologise for the strange choice of a pizza to represent Italy in the logo for the UK's presidency of the European Union (report, December 6).

If Foreign Office mandarins have such a craving for culinary delights why not also French quiche, German bratwurst and good old British fish and chips?

RAIMONDO MANZINI
(Italian Ambassador to the UK,
1968-75),
106 Somerset Road, SW19,
December 7.

OBITUARIES

Billy Bremner, Leeds United and Scotland footballer, died yesterday in hospital in Doncaster aged 54. He was born in Stirling on December 9, 1942.

Only days before he died of a heart-attack, Billy Bremner was still travelling around England's football grounds in his role as a media pundit. The unbridled passion that made him one of the most respected, and indeed feared, players of his generation was still evident in his forthright commentaries on the modern game.

Players today are making so much money you wonder if they still have that passion and pride," he said in one of his last interviews, and it was a typical comment from a man whose commitment was never questioned over a career which reaped 54 caps for Scotland as well as almost every club honour in the game. Perhaps his greatest moment for Scotland was the victory over England, then world champions, in 1967. Between 1968 and 1974 at Leeds United, Bremner lifted the League Cup, the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, the League Championship twice and also the FA Cup on two occasions as captain of one of the most dominant sides in the history of English football. His attempts to repeat that success as a manager, at Doncaster twice and back at Leeds, failed but those setbacks did not diminish his enthusiasm for the game which made him an instantly recognisable figure the length and breadth of Britain.

With a passion to match his fiery red hair, Bremner was the competitive —

sometimes, by his own admission, too much so — skipper of one of the greatest club sides the English game has seen as well as being leader of his country.

Born and brought up in Scotland, he moved to Elland Road as a teenager, turning professional for Leeds in 1959. He soon became the fulcrum of Don Revie's all-conquering side, making a total of 385 league appearances in his 17 years at Elland Road between 1959 and 1976.

Brought up through the ranks along with Terry Cooper, Norman Hunter, Gary Sprake and Paul Reaney, Bremner was at the heart of a tightly-knit team given an obsessional will to win by the management of Revie. While Manchester United, who had won the European Cup in 1968, were the team of glamour, boasting the style of George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton, Revie turned Leeds into a side of relentless method, which made them the side everyone, except their fans, loved to hate and wanted to see beaten. By the time they broke up in the mid-1970s they were pre-eminent in English club football.

Driven to even greater efforts when they narrowly missed two trophies in 1965, losing the final of the FA Cup to Liverpool and pipped to the League title by United, they came back stronger and, after lifting the League Cup in 1968, became a force across the Continent. Dressing them in an all-white strip, Revie told his players they were the heirs to the Real Madrid team that had dominated Europe, and they believed him.

Bremner was a vital cog. Turned down by Arsenal and Chelsea because they believed he was too small at 5ft 5in,

BILLY BREMNER

Bremner typically strived to prove that size was no barrier to success. A tough tackler, ready to dive in against far bigger opponents, he also boasted wonderful acceleration and was a master at transforming defence into attack. He could be used in a variety of positions, including centre forward; his ball-winning skills were matched by his ability to score great goals, and he was a superb passer of the ball. Even in the 1971 season, when Leeds failed to win a trophy, he was voted Footballer of the Year.

The competitiveness which, allied to his wonderful talents, made him such a formidable opponent could, though, also land him in trouble and he was no stranger to controversy. Perhaps the best remembered incident in Bremner's career was his dismissal along with Kevin Keegan, then a striker for Liverpool, for fighting in the Charity Shield at Wembley in 1974. Shame was heaped on the pair for marring what was supposed to be a showpiece occasion but, on that day at least, Bremner could claim that his reputation for indiscipline had preceded him. It was, in fact, his Leeds team-mate John Giles who had started the fracas with the swing of an arm, and it was only Keegan's mistake in identifying his assailant that saw Bremner become involved. He further upset the football authorities, along with Keegan, for ripping off his shirt as he left the field and he was given a 34-day suspension and fined £500.

While he could plead mitigation then, Bremner was not the type to complain if he was ever on the receiving end of some rough treatment. Once asked to mark Pelé in a game against Brazil at

Hampden Park in 1965, the Scotland international found that illegitimate means were the only means of trying to stop the mighty Brazilian. Bremner took it almost as a mark of respect that Pelé felt the need to respond in a similar vein, swinging an elbow that left a tennis-ball sized bruise around one eye.

Bremner's international career probably reached its pinnacle in another game against Brazil, producing an outstanding display in a 0-0 draw during the 1974 World Cup. It ended in ignominy, however, the following year when he was banned from playing for his country again following a nightclub incident with team-mates in Copenhagen.

Bremner moved to Hull City for £35,000 in 1976, scoring for his new club on his debut to engineer a 1-0 win over Nottingham Forest. But within two years he was on the move again, this time to Doncaster Rovers where he was appointed player-manager. But the attempt, in this new role, to repeat the glory of his playing days never really took off. Doncaster never gave him the resources to challenge the country's elite and in 1985 he returned to Leeds where he succeeded Eddie Gray as manager at Elland Road. But he only lasted three years: being sacked by Leeds in 1988. In the following year he returned to Doncaster, again as manager, but with similarly disappointing results.

He eventually opted for reminiscing over his glory years as a noted after-dinner speaker, going on tours with his old team-mate Norman Hunter.

Bremner is survived by his wife Vicki, and by a son and two daughters.



LORD DAINTON

Lord Dainton, FRS, former chairman of the University Grants Committee and of the board of the British Library, died on December 5 aged 83. He was born on November 11, 1914.

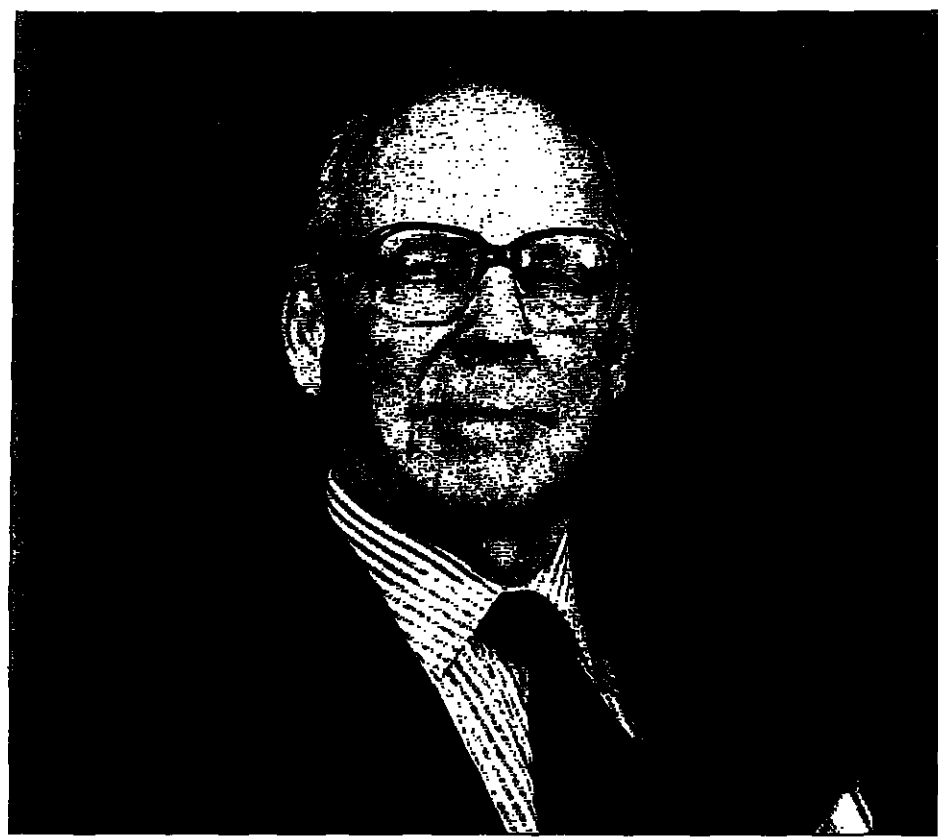
FRED DAINTON brought the mind of a scientist to bear upon public affairs. As a Yorkshireman he brought hard graft and a hard head to the problems of whatever cause or institution he was representing. He spoke his mind, but he had a warm heart and was loyal to those who shared his origins. In his five years, 1973-78, as chairman of the University Grants Committee, when Margaret Thatcher was Secretary of State for Education, he demonstrated his independence of mind in a post in which he might well have been simply a cipher. As chairman of the Board of the British Library, 1978-85, he ensured that the new institution would be abreast of the latest information technology when it eventually opened.

Frederick Sidney Dainton was born in Sheffield, his parents' ninth child. His father was a stonemason who had had no more than nine days' schooling in his life, and was too poor to provide money for boots for the boy. But his son won a scholarship to the Central Secondary School, and was later awarded an exhibition at St John's College, Oxford, even though, entranced by the beauty of the colleges, he had gone for a walk and missed the final paper.

At St John's, when the vacation began, Dainton would have to borrow a bicycle to pedal the 14½ miles home.

He graduated with first class honours in chemistry in 1937, and moved to Cambridge to work under Norrish on the reaction between oxygen and hydrogen. He concentrated on disentangling the roles of the numerous simple reactions, the interplay of which produces so many complexities.

Dainton had just been appointed to a temporary teaching post when the Second World War began. At first he remained in Cambridge carrying a heavy burden of college teaching, but later he was engaged on secret work for the Air Ministry. His research there alerted him to the dangers as well as the benefits of



nuclear energy. But although in the early days he was irritated that the authorities would not take seriously the effects of radiation, he was always a vehement opponent of those who wanted to scrap nuclear power stations.

In 1942 he married Barbara Wright, whom he met while she was at Newnham College. Their married life was outstandingly happy. She brought him warmth and friendship and was fiercely loyal. In 1944 he had been appointed demonstrator by his department and a fellow of St Catharine's College. The next six years saw his reputation develop. He believed that the most worthwhile field of physical chemistry was the study of rates of reactions, and within this field he diversified his existing interests in gaseous systems to include first polymerisation and next the relatively new subject of radiation chemistry.

In 1950 he moved to the University of Leeds and it was there that he realised his potential and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1957. In his lifetime he published 297 major scientific papers, as well as 17 accounts of his secret wartime research. He was more an unraveller of complexities than an innovator who perceived central simplicities, but his delight in research did not mean that he

neglected teaching. He pioneered tutorial teaching to science students in civic universities. He raised money from industry to build extensions to the Leeds School of Chemistry, and established a High Energy Radiation Research Laboratory, located at Cookridge Hospital. The university showed its gratitude to him by extending his directorship of that laboratory for seven years after his departure, and his scientific work was later recognised by the award of the Davy Medal of the Royal Society.

But by now relations with some of his colleagues had become strained, and his hopes for a new chemistry building had waned. So in 1965 Dainton left Leeds to become Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham. Despite great goodwill on his arrival, the three-cornered negotiations for the university's new medical school very quickly ran into unexpected difficulties with the planning authorities. His troubles were multiplied by student militants, who set up the "Free University of Nottingham". Dainton covered the walls with posters announcing the building was reserved for E.U.N. Disgruntled by this stroke of repressive tolerance, the militants coined a slogan "Don't let Fred lay at you again." His method of defus-

ing the affair brought criticism, as did his revision of the regulations in halls of residence, and he took personal attacks too much to heart. He regarded the student disturbances as a childish waste of time, and in 1970 when at the chair of physical chemistry at Oxford fell vacant he applied and achieved his undergraduate ambition to hold Hinchelwood's chair.

He did not hold it for long. Three years later he was appointed chairman of the University Grants Committee. He regarded himself very much as the universities' man, and although he was formally adviser to the Minister of Education, Margaret Thatcher, he meaningfully refused to sit next to her at meetings. His time at the Grants Committee coincided with the sharp rise in oil prices and the subsequent financial crisis, which destroyed the quinquennial system and reduced university budgets by four per cent. Dainton was more concerned with trying to see fair shares for all the universities than with persuading them to change un-economic procedures, but among his initiatives was the provision of additional money for courses at four or five universities that combined engineering with management studies.

In 1967 the Labour Govern-

ment reversed the decision to erect a building for the British Library opposite the British Museum. Dainton was asked to chair the committee on the needs of the national libraries and to recommend where the new library should be sited. The report said it must be in central London, and indeed endorsed the original site as the most suitable. But the real value of the report lay in its recommendations about the organisation of library services, most of which were accepted.

It was no surprise then that when Dainton's five years at the Grants Committee ended, he was chosen as chairman of the British Library board on the retirement of Lord Eccles. At a time when the technology of information retrieval and librarianship was undergoing a revolution, Dainton ensured that the library would be up to date in all its functions after the move to the St Pancras site. He did not regard the chairmanship as a part-time job, and when the chief executive fell ill, Dainton added that work to his own, which was to cause some difficulty to Sir Harry Hookway's successor.

The organisation of the British Library is his most lasting memorial. Dainton sat on many committees and bodies. Among the most significant was his chairmanship, in 1965, of a committee to investigate why there were so few candidates for university places in science and technology. His report recommended the abolition of the specialised sixth form curriculum which forced boys and girls to choose between the humanities or mathematics and science at the age of fourteen. He urged that all pupils should study mathematics until they left school. These recommendations fell on stony ground, however, and have yet to bear fruit.

Among his many appointments, Dainton was president of the Faraday Society, and first president of the Chemical Society. For his services to the State, he was made a life peer in 1984, and made a number of speeches in the House of Lords. He was also a member of the Government's Science and Technology Committee, and an honour that gave him special pleasure was his appointment as Chancellor of the University in his home town of Sheffield, which he held until his death.

His wife, Barbara, and a son and two daughters, survive him.

LORIMER WEIR

Lorimer Weir, OBE, Financial Controller of British European Airways, 1946-64, died in Edinburgh on November 1 aged 93. He was born on November 21, 1904.

ONE of the most industrious of the backroom boys who rose to the top of early British air transport, Lorimer Weir was for 33 years at the centre of the financial affairs of, successively, Imperial Airways, BOAC, and British European Airways. How well he performed through difficult, formative years is shown by the translation of Imperial Airways' £1½ million of pre-war losses in the years between 1924 and 1939 into BEA's £13 million of cumulative profits during its 28 years of existence from 1946 to 1974.

Involved in all of this, Rankin Lorimer Weir was educated at George Heriot's School and Edinburgh University with a medical career in prospect. In 1921, however, at the age of 17 he decided upon accountancy instead, joined an Edinburgh firm of chartered accountants. After qualifying in 1928 he departed for London to learn the ropes in the head office of the Gaumont British Picture Corporation. Despite the attractions of the budding "talkies", and of his free passes to the 300 cinemas of the Gaumont British circuit, in 1930 Weir set off for Canada to do accounting work in the brewing industry. There, he not only widened his professional experience but developed a palate for fine beers.

Early in 1933, impressed with the up and coming prospects of air transport, he wrote so persuasively to George Woods Humphrey, managing director of Imperial Airways in London, that after an interview with Sidney Dismore, Imperial's secretary and assistant general manager, Weir rapidly found himself installed at Croydon Airport as the airline's sole internal auditor.

From there his auditing work took him to Brindisi, where the airline's passengers boarded Shing Calcutta flying boats for Alexandria by way of Crete where Imperial's motor-yacht, Imperia, offered comfortable night stops for passengers — and delightful swimming for staff — including the internal auditor.

In those days of multiple, short-haul, staging-posts on the air route to India, Weir

became familiar with the "beau geste" type block-houses at Gaza, Ruita Wells, Bahrain and Basra, where, on occasion, he had to deal with such staff expenses as the hire of a camel for local transport.

Pending the delivery of the longer-range Short Empire flying boats, and the starting of an associated company, Indian Trans-Continental Airways — of which Imperial Airways held a 51 per cent share — Karachi became the interim terminal of the India route.

There, after many adventures, Weir had his overseas service brought to a sudden end by a vicious bout of typhoid, of which his local assistant died. He was flown home in one of the majestic Handley Page HP42 biplane airliners — the jumbos of their day — which had just been introduced into long-haul service. After recuperation in Scotland, he resumed work at Croydon Airport as assistant chief accountant under Arthur Quinn Harking (who was later to become administrative director of BOAC).

With Quinn Harking, in 1936 Lorimer Weir set up the Imperial Airways pension scheme — an advanced concept for the time. The airline and its employees each paid 5 per cent of the employee's salary to buy deferred annuities administered by four trustees — including Weir who continued for the next 34 years, eventually becoming its chairman. In due course, the Imperial Airways scheme, joined with BOAC, BSAA and BEA, became under Lorimer

Weir, the Airways Joint Pension Scheme.

When war came in 1939, Weir moved, with Imperial's headquarters staff, to the Grand Spa Hotel at Bristol, where he set up an underground accounts and pay office in a disused railway tunnel adjoining the hotel. It continued uninterrupted, and operating normally, throughout the subsequent heavy bombing of the city.

In February 1946 Sir Harold Hartley, the chairman-designate of BEA, invited Weir to join the organising committee of that prospective new, European airline, of which Weir became the first full-time departmental head as financial controller. In addition, he chaired an international committee (with KLM and American Airlines) to organise the IATA clearing house for the settlement of inter-airline transactions on a worldwide basis. From this, Weir went on to become chairman of the IATA financial committee from 1951 to 1955.

For his work at BEA he had been appointed OBE in 1949. Weir suffered a heart attack in August 1964, but came back to work until, in September 1965, he retired from the BEA board during a year in which he had the satisfaction of seeing the airline carry 5.6 million passengers and return a profit of £3 million after meeting all operational and capital costs.

He had married his Scottish fiancée, Dorothy Aiken, in 1935. He and his wife, who died in 1989, are survived by their daughter.



Appointments

The Rev Norman Hayton, Team Vicar, Egmont and Hale (Carlisle) to be Priest-in-Charge, Distington (same diocese).
The Rev Robert Hunter, Team Vicar, The Howden Team Ministry (York) to be Priest-in-Charge, St Peter, Ashum-under-Lyne (Manchester).
The Rev Jay Kothare, Team Vicar, St Paul's Ecumenical Centre, Thamesmead (Southwark) to be Community Relations Officer, and Priest-in-Charge, St Chad, Moston (Manchester).
The Rev Mark Ireland, Vicar, Baxenden St John (Blackburn) to be Diocesan Missioner, and Team Vicar, Walsall St Matthew, St Luke, and St Mark (Lichfield).
The Rev John Lees, Minor Canon and Succentor, St Paul's Cathedral (London) to be Team Rector, Swindon New Town (Bristol).
The Rev Roger MacPhee, NSM Vicar, Truro (Cornwall) to be Curate, Truro (Cornwall).
The Rev Rob Munro, Curate, Hartford (Cheshire) to be Rector, Davenham (same diocese).

Church news

Canon Alan Nugent, Diocesan Director of Education (Durham) to be Director, Mission and Training Development Forum, and licensed general preacher (Lincoln).
The Rev Angela Pavey, parvise Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and Assistant Curate, Birchwood St Luke (Lincoln) to be full-time Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and licensed general preacher (same diocese).
The Rev Geoffrey Price, Priest-in-Charge, Drayton in Hales (Lichfield) to be Vicar (same diocese).
The Rev James Rooke, formerly Priest-in-Charge, Bournemouth, and Chaplain, Kazwick School (Carlisle) to be NSM Assistant Curate, North and South Hylkham (Lincoln).
The Rev David Ruscoe, Curate, Dutton St Michael (Liverpool) to be Team Vicar, Kirby St Andrew (same diocese).
The Rev Derek Seber, NSM, Moss Side St James (Manchester) to be Priest-in-Charge, Thornton

Hough, and Industrial Chaplain, South Wirral (Cheshire).
The Rev Gordon Small, Team Vicar, Bucknall and Baginall (Lichfield) to be Assistant Curate (known as Associate Priest), Deal St Leonard w St Richard and Sholden St Nicholas (Canterbury).
The Rev Simon Stephenson, Team Vicar, Wrentham, and Priest-in-Charge, Forewell (Norwich) to be half-time Vicar, High Oak w Hingham, Scoulton and Woodrising, and half-time Chaplain, HM Prison Wayland (same diocese).
The Rev Barry Thompson, Canon Residentiary, Chelmsford Cathedral to be a Canon of St George's Chapel, Windsor.
The Rev Philip Wain, Assistant Curate, Winton St Helen (Cheshire) to be Priest-in-Charge, Lea Group (Lincoln).
Canon Michael Walters, Vicar, Kinsford and Toft (Cheshire) to be Priest-in-Charge, Rochdale St Chad, Good Shepherd, St John the Divine, and Team Rector-designate (same diocese).

proposed Congleton Team Ministry (same diocese).
Retirements and resignations
The Rev Alan Cochrane, Rector, Hilgay and Southey (Ely) to retire January 31, 1998.
The Rev Keith Haggart, NSM Curate, Woodnesborough w Worth and Staple (Canterbury) to retire January 8, 1998.
The Rev Jim Innes, Vicar, Brearley w Swenesham (Cheshire) to retire October 12.
The Rev Michael Lowe, Assistant Curate, Muddford (Winchester) to retire November 30.
The Rev Walter Smith, Vicar, Lythe w Uthorpe (York) to retire November 30 on health grounds.
The Rev John Worsdall, Vicar, The Siskney Group (Lincoln), to retire February 28, 1998.
Corrections
The Rev Andrew Ballard, Team Rector of Waldeston Moor with Little Holme (Manchester) to be Priest-in-Charge, "Rochdale St Chad, Good Shepherd, St John the Divine, and Team Rector-designate (same diocese).

MR. GLADSTONE IN SCOTLAND

I will ask you to believe with me that the errand which has brought me here is a most serious errand. (Cheers and the cry of "We believe it.") I find the confirmation of that view in the language of the address that has been read in your hearing. These associations feel that the time has arrived when the country should be freed from the disastrous policy of the present Government. (Cheers.) Undoubtedly the liberation of the country from the present Government is the main and capital object of my pilgrimage. (Loud cheers.) After the demonstration which the conduct of the present Parliament has afforded, and, in particular and far beyond the rest, after the demonstration which the last two disastrous years have afforded, I tell you plainly that unless you effect that you will effect nothing. (Cries of "We will do it," "It's true," and cheers.) That removal of itself is but a part of your work. What

ON THIS DAY

December 8, 1879

Gladstone closed his mid-London campaign with a visit to Motherwell where he addressed a large crowd at the station, the warmth and intensity of whose feelings are illustrated by the interjections in this relatively short extract.

will come afterwards for those who may be selected to guide the affairs of this country will be a matter of the utmost complexity and difficulty. (A Voice: "They'll manage it.") Do not suppose that a party triumph is the end of all things in my views. (Cheers.) No it is but the necessary, the essential, the indispensable beginning. (Renewed cheers.) And here let me say, with respect to a kind expression that was used in one of the speeches addressed to me, that it is return to place and power is no part of

the purpose for which I have come here. I have not come here for myself (A Voice: "The more's the pity," and cheers), then for the public interest. What you have heard said is that you want statesmen who will uphold the Constitutional privileges of the people, and the meaning of that is that during these latest years the Constitutional privileges of the people represented in their Parliament have not been upheld. (Cheers.) You say you want statesmen who will maintain the national honour. If the national honour could be maintained by boasting and brag (cheers and laughter), then, indeed, it has been splendidly maintained (renewed cheers and laughter); but if the national honour depends upon a firm decision to accord to others the rights you claim for yourselves, if the national honour is the civilizing principle of equal rights to all, if the national honour requires that whenever strong words are used they shall be followed by strong acts, then we are, indeed, of opinion that the national honour has not been maintained. (Cheers.)

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

BACK IN THE RING

Herol Graham risks a last hurrah
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FLYING HIGH

Eagles soar to first cup success
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BREMNER REMEMBERED

Rob Hughes mourns a fine and fiery footballer
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PLUS

New Zealand beat England - at netball
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY

DECEMBER 8 1997

A CUP TIE TO SAVOUR AND A MATCH TO REMEMBER

Goliaths set for early showdown

By Matt Dickinson

CHELSEA versus Manchester United. At last it was worth sitting through the televised hype that has become an unnecessary accompaniment to every football draw as the FA Cup-holders, Chelsea, were paired with the FA Carling Premiership champions for a simultaneous third-round tie that truly whets the appetite. With Ruud Gullit's team United's closest challengers in the league, it would be hard to imagine a more mouth-watering clash.

After the complications of groups, seeds and pools at the World Cup draw in Marseille last week, it was a relief to return to the simple act of pairing two teams. The Football Association could not resist trying to dress the occasion up in pointless razzamatz, but in pitting Chelsea against United, the draw did at least produce a game to savour.

Everton versus Newcastle United and the intriguing meeting of Tottenham Hotspur and renaissance Fulham also caught the eye, but none could distract from the Stamford Bridge collision that will add another twist to the two teams' battle at the top of the Premiership. The draw, conducted at the FA's headquarters in Lancaster Gate, gives Chelsea the chance to avenge their 1994 Cup Final and 1996 semi-final defeats. The sides have met once in the league this season, United coming from behind to draw 2-2 at Old Trafford.

Dennis Wise, who captained Chelsea to victory at Wembley last season, believes the holders will relish a game that is sure to be one of the weekend's televised fixtures. "It's at home, so that is good," he said. "We've always done well against them, so we're looking forward to it. I think they will be a little bit disappointed, especially that they have to play us at our place. It will be interesting."

Apart from the clash of the top two, there are four other all-Premiership ties - Liverpool versus Coventry City, Derby

County at home to Southampton, Barnsley against Bolton Wanderers and Newcastle away to Everton.

The irony was not lost on the injured Newcastle striker, Alan Shearer, who made the draw with the former England international, Nat Lofthouse. It was in a low-key pre-season friendly at Goodison Park that Shearer suffered the serious ankle injury that has prevented him from playing since. "I won't be going back there," he joked, as Newcastle's name came out of the bowl.

Perhaps most fascinating will be the meeting at White Hart Lane, where Tottenham, struggling to avoid relegation, and humiliated 6-1 by Chelsea on Saturday under the new leadership of Christian Gross, will meet a Fulham side being dramatically and expensively rebuilt by

Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins. The duo have already spent more than £4 million of Mohamed Al Fayed's money in their ambitious attempt to lift the club from the Nationwide League second division into the Premiership, and the trip to Tottenham will give them a good idea of how far they have come. Tottenham's north London rivals, Arsenal, have a home tie with Port Vale, who lie in mid-table in the first division.

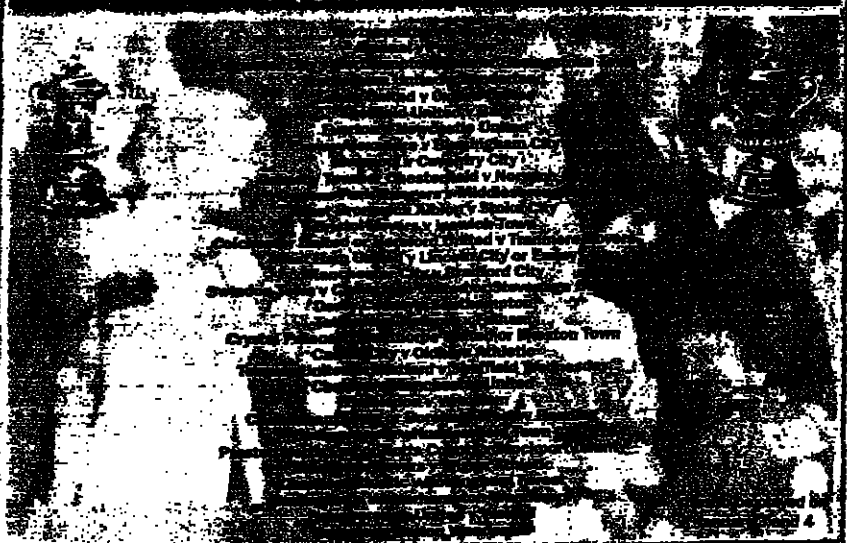
Of the non-League sides left in, several could face Premiership opponents if they can win their second-round replays. Emley, who drew 2-2 at Lincoln City on Saturday, could travel to Upton Park to meet West Ham United and Ilkeston Town will visit Crystal Palace if they can improve on their 1-1 draw at Scunthorpe.

Keith Alexander, manager of Ilkeston, who are second in the midland division of the Dr Martens League, said: "It would be a great day out for the club and fans but promotion is our priority. Nobody will remember the Cup run if we fail to go up." Basingstoke Town will visit Leicester City if they beat Northampton Town in a replay.

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FA CUP THIRD ROUND



'I believe we could and should have won'

Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, says that the draw with New Zealand could prove to be a turning point for domestic rugby

THIS HAS been a watershed for English rugby because it's a different game to the one that many leading players are used to on a weekly basis. It has been drawn out long enough for everyone to realise that is how the game has to be played. We have shown, in part, that we are capable of doing that - now we have to build on it and get better and I feel this England side will do that.

On this journey, we have shown the ability to listen to what is being said and implement that on the field, so, to that extent, it's no great surprise that our last performance has been our best one. That first half was a reflection of the way that we wanted to play. We wanted more width in the game and the thing that pleased me most was that we kept hold of the ball. That gives you the ability to put sides under pressure, no matter who you are playing against.

It has been tough playing these four matches [against Australia, South Africa and twice against New Zealand], but it has opened everyone's eyes to what is required. The base fitness level is not what it needs to be to sustain that game,

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but the players can build on that. New Zealand stepped their game up in the second half and, for 25 minutes, we were under enormous pressure - but we have to learn to absorb that because, in the nature of the game under modern laws, good sides will keep possession. We did that and put points on the board - three tries is more than we scored in the previous three games put together and I believe that we could, and should, have won. We have yet to learn how to kill sides off.

The message at half-time was not to defend the lead, but to go on attacking, even if it did not seem like that. The worst thing to have done would have been to sit back on our [14-point] lead.

In the second half, we turned ball over a bit too much and I was guilty once of kicking the ball away when it was on to handle. Anything outside our own 22, we must keep the ball in hand, build fifth, sixth and seventh phase play and get into the opposition. When we did that, even the All Blacks' back three looked vulnerable all of a sudden.

Yet, out of the four games we have played, this was the most satisfying and the commitment over four weeks has been fantastic. We have the manpower; now we have to create the environment in which we can play successfully. We have to start structuring our season on our terms, establish what is best for England, so that we can move forward not merely to match the likes of New Zealand and South Africa, but to overtake them.

Dallaglio reveals his power and leadership as England earn a 26-26 draw with New Zealand at Twickenham

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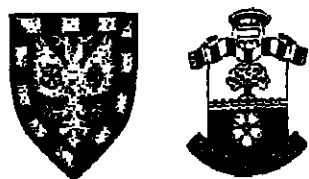
SPORT IN BRIEF

Hong Kong title falls to Nobile

هكذا من الأهل

Wimbledon supporters continue vociferous protest against club's move to Dublin

Earle settles unsatisfactory encounter



WIMBLEDON 1
SOUTHAMPTON 0
By Brian Glanville

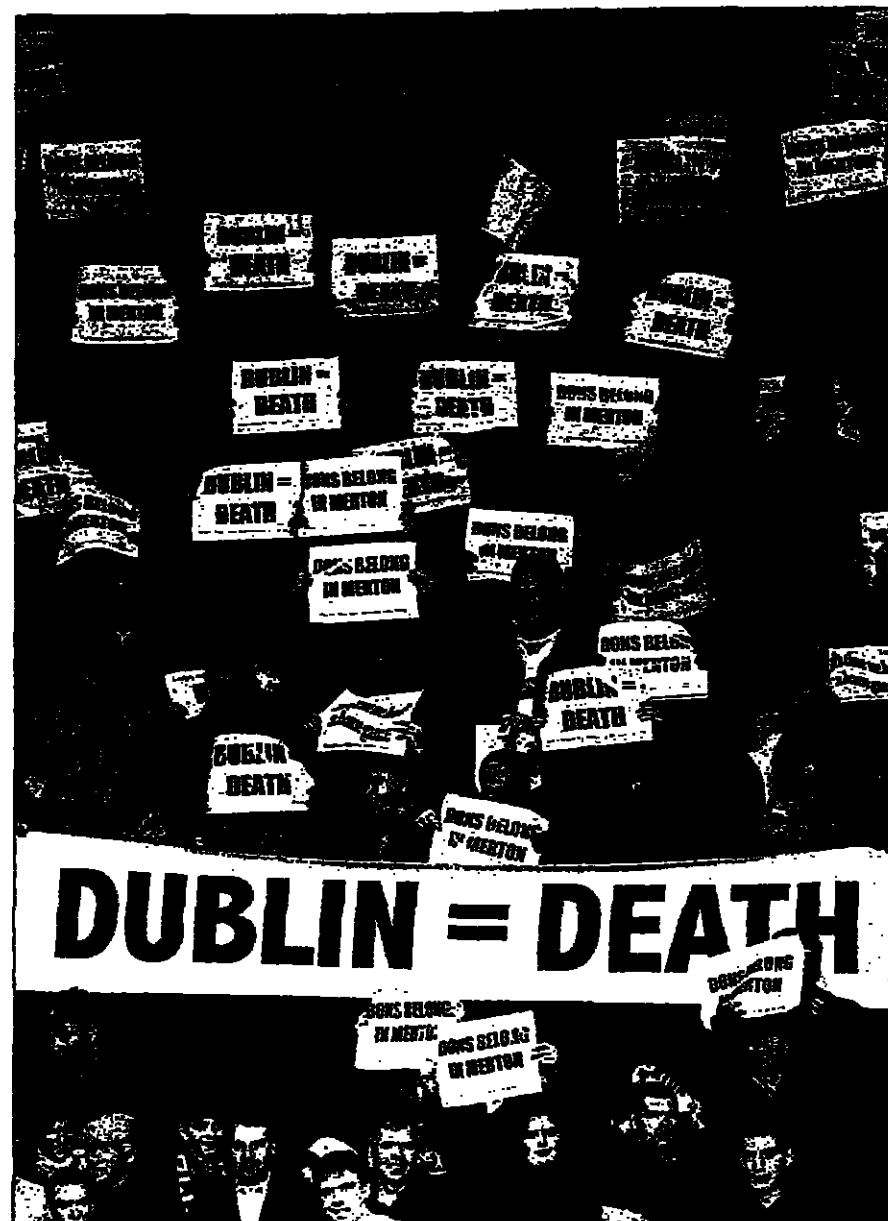
BLEAK stuff on a bleak afternoon, hardly enlivened by the persistent chants from Wimbledon's faithful few of: "We'll never go to Dublin." If this kind of games does go to Dublin, it is debatable whether Dublin will go to the Dons.

Wimbledon probably deserved their narrow victory. They did, after all, score a goal and might well have had a couple more in the second half with shots that were on target. Southampton, though they had three strikers on the field for most of the second half, did not once in that period force Neil Sullivan, in the Wimbledon goal, to make a save.

Wimbledon's goal arrived after 17 minutes. Ståle Solbakken, their new Norwegian striker, who looks a shrewd, intelligent player, crossed from the right. Gayle got his head to it. Richardson failed to get it away and Robbie Earle, whose recent appearances have been as substitute for Jamaica, intervened to score.

There was little else to remember in a tedious first half. A powerful, long shot by Cort had Jones diving to save. There were a couple of interesting moments from Le Tissier, but sporadic is the most applicable adjective for his present performances and he was taken off early in the second half.

Was it a wise move? He had hit one shot from afar that had Sullivan turning the ball for a corner and, shortly before half-time, Le Tissier suddenly, in that cool and casual way of his, pivoted to hit a first-time shot on the bounce that caught Sullivan unawares, only for the ball to go just over the bar.



Wimbledon supporters make their feelings known, left, but at least they were cheered when an error by Richardson allowed Earle to score the only goal



would still have seemed more logical to have brought on another striker in Clarke.

David Jones, the Southampton manager, said: "You can't make schoolboy errors and that's what we did." It was still a little puzzling that Jones should decide to withdraw Le Tissier when his chief complaint was: "You've got to deliver one ball in 90 minutes and they couldn't deliver one ball into the box."

Le Tissier, even on an off day, is still capable of that. "Le Tiss has got himself into a bit of a rut. He's not having the best of times," Jones said. "You've got to keep working at your game. He's got to do something special, like maybe score a goal or have a good game, to get out of it. Players play on confidence and, at the moment, he's a little bit low."

Commenting on the demonstra-

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tion by the supporters, Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon co-owner, said: "I completely sympathise and concur with those feelings. If I was a fan, I would probably want to do the same thing. It's a tragedy, but we've had that tragedy for 20 years."

"I am cautiously optimistic that we can do something with our council. If we can, we will — but if we can't do that, we will continue to prepare for Dublin. What else can I say? I can't see such a move being before three or four years or having a decision before a year or 18 months — but it's something we need to look at seriously."

"I had what I consider to be a successful meeting with the leader [of Merton Borough Council] and I am cautiously optimistic that something can happen."

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Sullivan — K. Carrington, C. Perry, D. Blackmore, D. Thompson — M. Hughes, S. Schuster, N. Austin, R. Earle — C. Cort (sub: A. Kinnear, 57 min), N. Gayle (sub: V. Jones, 80).
SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P. Jones — J. Dodd, K. Morrison, C. Lush, P. Bardsley — K. Richardson (sub: R. Sison, 62), C. Palmer, M. Poyade (sub: E. Clowes, 55), M. O'Leary — D. West, K. Davies. Referee: M. Reed.

Coppell's pride in contrasting virtues

THERE was a story in one of the papers on Saturday that a club in Serie A was "interested in" Neil Shipperley, the Crystal Palace forward. Far-fetched? Even Steve Coppell, his manager, described Shipperley after this match in terms that suggested faint praise, such as "hard-working". Coppell saved adjectives such as "subtle" for Michele Padovano, the former Juventus player, who moved from Italy to South London last month.

However, if the rumours of closer links between Palace and Juventus prove accurate, who knows what may happen? Picture the scene in the office of Marcello Lipi, the Juventus coach: "Ah, come in, Mr Del Piero, have a seat. We're thinking of sending you to our South Norwood branch for a few weeks; for the experience, you know. A chap named Simon Rodger is coming over here to have a go at your job."

Such were the flights of fancy that occupied the mind during the duller stretches at Filbert Street on



LEICESTER CITY 1
CRYSTAL PALACE 1
By Nick Szczepanik

Nevertheless, Padovano's first goal for Palace, a low, angled drive between Keller and his near post three minutes before half-time, looked likely to win the day, despite the early dismissal of Edworthy for a lack at Ullathorne. "I was so proud of what they did. It's a word I don't often use in football management," Coppell said. "Sixty-odd minutes with ten men was a tremendous effort."

Shipperley could have made it even better on the hour, when Warhurst's pass gave him a chance, but Keller blocked his low shot and, in the final minute, Muzzy Izzet was allowed to collect a short corner before bending a right-foot shot beyond Miller to deny Palace their sixth FA Carling Premiership win of the season. "A great goal to equalise at a time when all looked lost," Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, said.

Padovano later accepted the tactical reason for his substitution and spoke diplomatically of the differences between football in Italy and England. "When you concede a goal in the last minute, of course you call it bad luck," he said, "but we defended too deep. We should have continued doing what we did in the first half, but it's easier to say than to do when you are down to ten men." Not a bad appraisal. He might make a manager one day. Of Palace, perhaps. Or Juventus.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Keller — S. Prior, M. Elliot, P. Karmann — R. Savage, S. Campbell (sub: S. McIlhenny, 77 min), N. Lennon, M. Izzet, R. Ullathorne (sub: S. Wilson, 51) — S. Glanville (sub: J. Watts, 62), G. Fenlon.
CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): K. Miller — A. Lush, P. Warhurst, H. Henderson — M. Edworthy, G. West, S. Rodger, N. Emberton (sub: G. Davies, 73), D. Gordon — N. Shipperley, M. Padovano (sub: J. Fullerton, 52). Referee: U. Ronnie.



Padovano: diplomatic

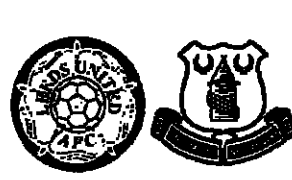
New goalkeeper helps lift Everton out of the mire

HAD it not been for the heroics of both goalkeepers, Leeds United would have won this game comfortably. It was naturally easier to forgive the man charged with patching up Everton's uncertain defence, but Nigel Martyn, the Leeds goalkeeper, ought to have known better than prevent his side going behind. Up against it, Leeds have been deadly in recent weeks. He dubiously refused to allow them that luxury.

To Martyn's anti-hero for Leeds, Thomas Myhre, from Norway, played the hero for Everton. His name will not be well known on Merseyside, but it could become so. He replaced Neville Southall, the club's veteran of well over 700 games, who was nursing sore ribs but could have played, and leapt around with all the enthusiasm of a man making his first appearance. It may just be a mark — and did.

But for him, Everton would surely have leaked goals again, yet he kept his fingers firmly in the dyke. Teams at the foot of the FA Carling Premiership are supposed to lose to those in fourth place, but, heartened by the unquenchable spirit of their newcomers, Everton brought an end to their long run of defeats and lifted themselves off the bottom rung.

Myhre spoiled the home side's



LEEDS UNITED 0
EVERTON 0
By Simon Wilde

two choicest opportunities. The best came near the end, when Leeds, as is now customary, were at their most purposeful. Kewell had a golden opportunity to score from close range, but found his shot blocked on the line. The second-best chance came much earlier, in the eighth minute, when Wallace, with no one else to beat, hit Myhre on the legs. A few minutes later, Kewell was denied with a reflex save.

Arguably, though, the turning point of the game was not these highly commendable efforts by the Everton newcomers, but the moment shortly before half-time when Martyn brilliantly saved a well-directed penalty from Gary Speed, a former Leeds player. Wetherall had hooked down Barnby after he had darted inside

him. Had Speed scored then, Leeds might have been roused to assertiveness, as had happened spectacularly in their three previous Premiership games. As it was, George Graham, their manager, had little to shout about at half-time.

His side spent most of the second half looking more like Everton than Everton and finished grateful to have retained their long unbeaten home league record against Everton — which dates back to 1951.

Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, refused to lavish praise on Myhre, 24, who joined the club from Sarsgrop late last month. "It is difficult when Neville is available and you do not play him," he said. "Thomas had played one reserve game for us."

"You could say it was a gamble or that he only lived up to his potential. I don't want to go overboard about him after one game."

But Kendall's post-match body-language was more eloquent than any words: he found it hard to stop hugging his new acquisition.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N. Martyn — G. Halls, D. Wetherall, L. Richardson, D. Robertson — G. Kelly, L. Bowyer (sub: J. F. Hasselbaink, 72 min), A. I. Haidart, S. Vitorino — H. Kendall, R. Wallace.
EVERTON (3-5-2): T. Myhre — C. Tiller, D. Watson, C. Short — A. Hutchinson, G. Farrelly, G. Speed, D. Williams, D. Berrand, E. Trinder, N. Redfern — A. Ward, A. Liddell. Referee: P. Duxton.

manager has problems, too. Atherton, his captain, is suspended and Nicolas Alexandersson, his new signing, will also miss out. The Sweden international, purchased from IFK Gothenburg on Friday, did not receive international clearance in time to play.

Atkinson, though, is untroubled. "We have won three games in a row and there is a confidence in the squad to keep that going."

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable): 4-4-2: K. Preston — I. Hutton, J. Newson, D. Walker, M. Pennington — G. Whittingham, W. Collins, J. Magilton, R. Marshby — A. Scott, P. Collins.
BARNLEY (probable): 4-4-2: L. Lees — N. Ender, A. de Zeeuw, P. Markoski, D. Barnard — M. Ward, A. Liddell. Referee: G. Willard.

TELEVISION: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 7pm.
PREDICTION: Exciting game, home win.

Wright rediscovers his golden touch

IGNORING her father's pleas to approach Newcastle United's forlorn players for autographs, the little girl broke free of his hand and yelped: "It's the man with the gold smile I want."

She was referring to Ian Wright and, after the forward's winning goal for Arsenal at St James' Park on Saturday, he did indeed have a smile so golden that it lit up a sullen North East evening.

It was not just his fine dental work, either. Wright has been a troubled figure for two months, secretly fearing that his powers have ebbed away; Wright has been a Popeye without his spinach, a golfer without a golf.

He last scored on October 4 and already the obituaries had been written. Many thought that at 34, Wright was yesterday's man. It took him 35 minutes to prove them wrong. It was a simple goal — a check in the box to lose his marker and then a late run to the near post to meet Bergkamp's cross from the left and steer it into the net from close range.

"I was beginning to question myself," he said. "It wasn't the lack of goals as such, but the way I had played. There was a player out there leading the line, but it wasn't Ian Wright."

Against Liverpool, it all came to a head. Maybe I had lost confidence, but I wasn't doing what I should have been doing. I wasn't working hard and I hadn't earned the right to score goals. Our fans let me know and I sat down and had a long look at myself. I have changed things and I have now got a goal."

After his goal, Wright set off on a drunken canter, his Arsenal shirt dragged over his head to reveal a T-shirt underneath displaying the words "At Last".

Before Saturday, the England forward seemed to have lost something of his aggressive edge since being embraced by Glenn Hoddle.



NEWCASTLE UNITED 0
ARSENAL 1
By David Maddock

interest. He got into one quite spectacular tussle with Stuart Pearce, an England colleague, that made the Newcastle defender see every shade of red. With mist clouding judgment, Wright danced by Pearce's wild challenge and almost added a second goal in the second half.

Inspired by Pearce's close and often intimidating attention, Wright looked a different player. It is too simplistic to merely say that the forward should retain his nasty streak, but Wright requires an edge to his game and aggression offers it.

So did the Newcastle defence. Once again, they conceded a goal by failing to command forwards around the penalty area. This time it was Pistone who dallied criminally to allow Bergkamp's cross to Wright. Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, must be driven to distraction by such generosity.

It was not a classic game and with Wright reduced and Asprilla returning from injury, a mistake was always the most likely source of a goal. Lucky for Arsenal, then, that the Newcastle defence is so well equipped to provide one.

Dalglish spoke of his own culpability in his side's downfall, by playing Asprilla when the forward was still not match fit. The truth, though, is that there was nothing much to choose between two sides of limited depth in a fairly drab affair.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-1-1): S. Hodge — J. Watson, D. Peacock, S. Pearce, A. Pistone — R. Gillespie, R. Lee, D. Bury, J. Barnes — J. D. Tomlinson (sub: T. Woodard, 72 min) — P. Asprilla (sub: P. Abbott, 62).
ARSENAL (4-4-2): D. Seaman — I. Dixon, A. Adams, M. Kinnear, R. Winstanley — R. Paro, E. Post, D. Platt, M. Overmars — I. Wright, G. Hoddle. Referee: S. Dunn.

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Bremner revelled as hardman with a soft centre

Rob Hughes remembers the Leeds United and Scotland legend, who died yesterday

Billy Bremner, whose fiery tenacity was synonymous with the Don Revie era of Leeds United, died of a heart attack yesterday morning. He was 54 and the shock of his passing at such an age is compounded by the method with which he lived his life — never yielding to a bigger man, never succumbing to the adversity of disappointment, never accepting what fate seemed to have in store. Knock down Billy Bremner and you were bound to feel the after-effects.

Peter Lorimer, the winger who played under Bremner's captaincy at Leeds and for Scotland, summed up the reaction yesterday. "I was told he had a minor heart flutter and they were just keeping him in for observation," he said. "It seems unbelievable: he was fit, he lived life to the full, sport was what life was all about to him. I can't take it in."

That reaction was expressed north and south of the border as the news spread from Doncaster Royal Infirmary that Bremner, having been admitted on Friday, was dead. He had been the epitome of the one-club man. He played for Leeds United from 1959 to 1976 — 769 games with 115 goals.

He had 54 caps for Scotland, helped Leeds to win promotion from the second division in his first full season with the club, then endured and enjoyed the decade between 1964 and 1974, in which Leeds twice won the championship, were six times runners-up and competed in nine cup finals in England and in

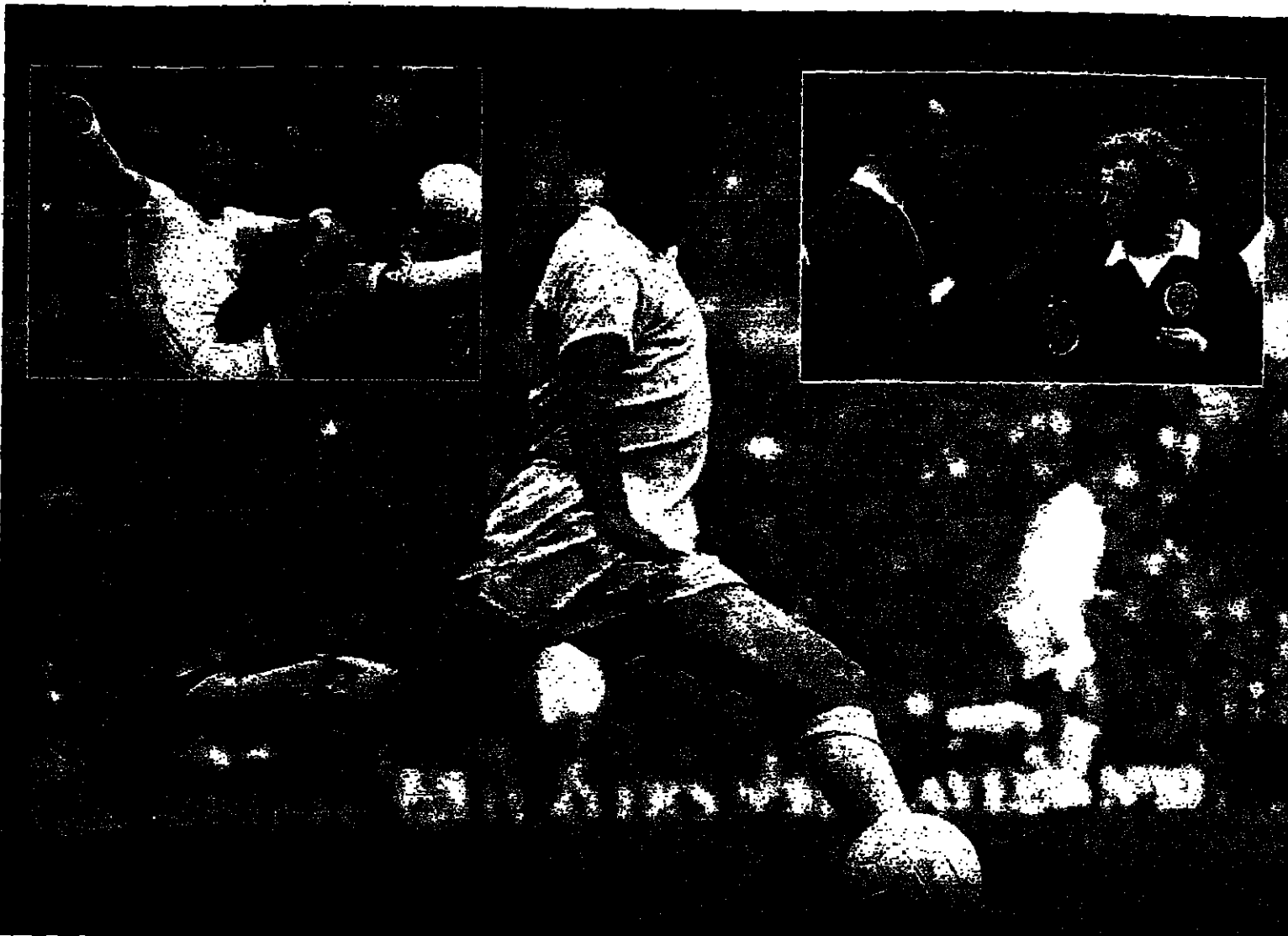
Europe, winning four of them.

Together with Johnny Giles and Bobby Collins, Bremner formed a bantamweight midfield trio that was majestic in passing, cruel to the point of spite in kicking back, astute and in command of more games than any other triumvirate. When, in 1970, Leeds overextended themselves in chasing the championship, the FA Cup and the European Cup and ended with nothing, Bremner was named as the Footballer of the Year.

This player, who would dart devilishly into the opponents' penalty area, who could score goals that regular strikers perhaps never scored, was lauded by the finest writers of the day. "Billy Bremner is ten times of barbed wire," Michael Parkinson enthused.

"Above all, Leeds have Bremner, the best footballer in the four countries. If every manager in Britain were given his choice of one player to add to his team some, no doubt, would toy with the idea of George Best, but the realists, to a man, would have Bremner." Thus wrote John Arlott.

Of course, Revie admired and squeezed every ounce of beligerent command out of his captain. "Billy was difficult to handle when he came down from Scotland, but what a player," he once said. "Once you had his trust, he'd go through walls, windows and fire. I gave him responsibility in the hope that it would control the hellfire in him and although it never quite subsided, I don't think anyone



Bremner had great style and skill, but his fiery temperament, right, and hard, sometimes cynical tackling, left, earned him a tough reputation

would argue about the quality."

Revie and Bremner successfully sued a Sunday newspaper that claimed they had attempted to bribe Wolverhampton Wanderers players. It was never proven, but there

were sides to Bremner; that I can vouch for, that people found beyond credibility. He was a most charitable man. I recall him running from the training ground one morning and speeding away in his car. His wife had

phoned the dressing-room to say that she had in their home the grandmother of a boy who was dying. The grandmother believed that a visit from his hero could rally him.

"Why should I tell you about that?" Bremner responded when I wished to discuss it. "We all in our lives do personal and private things that are not for anybody else to know about. The lad was really poorly, he had pneumonia." The boy was in an oxygen tent and Bremner,

sitting at his bedside, cajoled and begged him to fight. The next day he had another phoned call; the hospital said the patient had rallied, but Bremner finished our discussion of the hospital visits by saying: "Sometimes we can be

of use, many times not. I think all players have been asked to try to help someone who loves the club come out of a coma. I've tried and it taught me how useless we are, how we are just normal people, when I failed."

He did not fail, this ultra-competitive man, this football warrior, in action. He classed himself as a realist — the very reason that he once said was behind his decision to forsake Celtic, which had talented players to spare. As a manager, he fought on a shoestring with Doncaster Rovers, and he took his turn as manager of Leeds, another relative failure among former Revie

'Once you had his trust, he'd go through windows, walls and fire'

boys trying to revive the golden years at Elland Road.

He liked a cigarette and a glass of whisky, but he liked nothing more than football. Charlie Nicholas, one of those wayward Scottish players who squandered greater ability than Bremner made use of, said yesterday: "He could tackle, score goals, spray passes all over the park. I'll never forget a Leeds match against Southampton when Leeds made between 30 and 40 passes without an opponent touching the ball."

"Billy was at the hub of it, flicking the ball with his heel, showing off his full range of skills. He was some player, one of the greats of the game."

Obituaries, page 23

Glass shatters City's hopes of extended run

Bournemouth 3
Bristol City 1

By DAVID POWELL

AFTER Chesterfield's run to the semi-finals last season, the Nationwide League second division has a reputation to live up to in the FA Cup. It did so in style yesterday when two of its members served up a stirring second-round tie, one in which Bristol City looked every inch a team that had won its nine previous matches. They just ran into a goalkeeper at the top of his game.

Jimmy Glass was the outstanding player on a wet and treacherous pitch, making six excellent saves. At the other

their debts are some £1.5 million — and how a Cup run would help. "Chesterfield just got to the semi-finals, but we are hoping we can get to the final," Mel Machin, the manager, said, careful to smile in case anybody should take him seriously.

Machin acknowledged that City had dominated the second half, but was impressed with the "great character, great commitment" shown by his players. He said that 3-1 was "very flattering", while John Ward, the City manager, raised a glass to Glass. "Terrific, wasn't he," Ward said.

However, what mattered more to Ward was that his team had allowed Glass to impress. "We worked him hard," Ward said. "We are disappointed with the result, but we will take the performance and put it on again next week."

Glass began his heroics by keeping out two shots by Goodridge, one a well-struck long-range drive, the other from closer in. Early in the second half, it was Cramb's turn to test him. A rare error by Howe let Cramb in for a shot that forced Glass into a close-range save.

After 62 minutes, Glass was smartly down at his near post to keep out Goodridge's low drive from an angle. Then another shot by Cramb was saved, City having stepped up a gear in the second half.

Glass was eventually beaten when Cramb slotted the ball past him, only to hit the far post. With such ill luck, City failed to set a club post-war record of ten successive wins. On the evidence of their play, though, it will not be long before they win again.

BOURNEMOUTH (4-4-2): J. Glass — N. Young, I. Cox, E. Howe, J. Vincent — J. Bailey, S. Robinson, R. Henderson (sub: M. Rowson, 40min), J. O'Neil — S. Fletcher, C. Warren.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): K. Welch — A. Loefer, L. Cawley, S. Taylor, J. Brannen (sub: S. Tannen, 40) — G. Goodridge, P. Tachell (sub: D. Bentley, 10), R. Edwards, M. Bell — C. Cramb, S. Gossler.

Referee: M. Halsey.



Hayles, of Bristol Rovers, right, holds off a challenge from Irvine, of Wisbech, at Fenland Park on Saturday

Louts spoil big day for minnows

Wisbech Town 0
Bristol Rovers 2

By KEITH PIRK

THEY were not sold short by their players, who raised their game sufficiently to avoid a pasting from a thoroughly professional Bristol Rovers side, but Wisbech Town were badly let down by a minority of their supporters, whose overt racism soured an otherwise enjoyable FA Cup afternoon on Saturday.

The club that seems fated to make headlines for all the wrong reasons was left angry but helpless as a vocal, vitriolic and seemingly alcohol-fuelled mob behind one of the goals directed a stream of abuse at Barry Hayles, the black Rovers striker, during the warm-up and throughout the first half, culminating

with a banana being thrown on to the pitch as the teams left the field at half-time.

The police, having issued a warning over the public address system, subsequently moved into the crowd to arrest two youths during the second half, but it was Hayles who delivered the perfect riposte, scoring the second goal as Rovers made sure of their place in the third round.

It is probable that those who brought shame on the club will not be back at Fenland Park next Saturday, when Wisbech return to Dr Martens League midland division duty. They will not be missed.

"You don't get that sort of thing in the (Nationwide League) second division," Hayles said. "Nor had he suffered such abuse when scoring the goals that helped Stevenage Borough to the

Vauxhall Conference championship the season before last and secured his £200,000 move to the Memorial Ground. Like most people, he thought such intolerance had disappeared from football grounds. "I had been told by the manager (Ian Holloway) that the best way to answer was to put the ball in the net and it definitely made it sweeter to score," he said. "It is the best way to answer them." Indeed, it shut them up completely.

Hayles was nonetheless happy to give Wisbech credit for the way their players approached the match. "They passed it around well, not just lumping it and are a strong side," he said. In truth, though, their hopes of reaching the third round for the first time lasted the time that it took Jackie Gallagher's 71st-minute header, which was

bound for the top corner, to be tipped over by Collett. It was the one threat on the Rovers goal that they managed.

WISBECH TOWN (4-4-2): L. Bray — P. Marshall (sub: M. Newell, 70min), A. Macdonald, A. Irvine (sub: S. McLaughlin, 43), M. Lindsay — G. Chisholm, W. Ward, L. Penick (sub: S. Topple, 53), I. Williams — J. Gallagher, P. Munns.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A. Collett — J. Perry, T. White, A. Talson, D. Pritchard — J. Low, M. Hayfield, P. Beattie, M. Lockwood — B. Hayles, G. Penrice.

Referee: A. D'Urso.

Hednesford are hoping defeat is lift to ambition

Hednesford Town 0
Darlington 1

By BILL EDGAR

JOHN BALDWIN, like Alex Ferguson at Manchester United, has transformed an ailing club since the start of the Nineties. Just as Ferguson believes his side's early Coca-Cola Cup exit this season will help the quest for his ultimate goal of a European Cup triumph, Baldwin, the Hednesford Town manager, may eventually reflect positively on an FA Cup defeat that has uncluttered the path to his own holy grail of the Nationwide League.

While Ferguson was facing calls for his resignation in January 1990, Baldwin was starting a managerial reign that has earned the club two promotions and, in 1996, third place in the Vauxhall Conference. Their failure to finish higher than eighth last season could be attributed in great part to an epic FA Cup run, in which the fourth round defeat at Middlesbrough was their ninth game of the competition. Baldwin, whose side he second in the Conference, said: "I am disappointed, but I've said all along that the league is our main aim." The manager of Hednesford found little support for his pre-match pleading that his part-timers were underdogs against Nationwide League third division opponents. The hosts were unbeaten at home this season, while Darlington had not won away for eight months or reached the FA Cup third round for eight years.

Baldwin has several players with considerable league experience under his control, including Blades and Deronson, both recently of Wolverhampton Wanderers, but it was another former Molineux striker, Darren Roberts, who took centre stage for Darlington. Roberts converted a 49th-

minute penalty — awarded after Blades tripped Atkinson — but, within seconds, he was sent off for kicking the goalkeeper, Cooksey, as the ball rebounded from the net.

Roberts, whose side needed a penalty shoot-out to beat Solihull Borough in the last round, said: "I went to kick the ball back in the net in celebration, but the keeper put his foot in the way and I caught the back of his heel. I can't believe I've been sent off, I'm not going to kick him deliberately after scoring." Last season, a player was sent off in Serie A when his prolonged celebration of his goal was deemed to be time-wasting and a second bookable offence.

Terry Fleming saved Lincoln City, the Nationwide League third division leaders, from defeat at home to Emley, of the UniBond League premier division, with an equaliser in the dying moments of the game.

David Preece, the inspired Darlington goalkeeper, thwarted repeated Hednesford attacks after the dismissal, but the superior fitness of the visitors ensured that they were stronger in the final quarter.

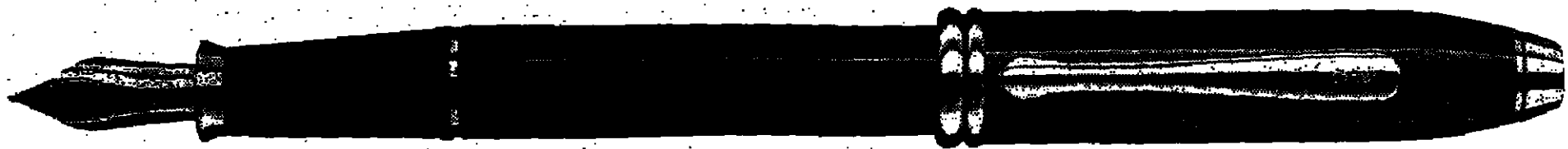
The greatest period of success in their 117-year history of Hednesford has come in a rush since the last of the town's coalmines closed in the mid-Eighties. With the refurbishment of the Keys Park stadium to Nationwide League standards due for completion by March, they could be clocking in on third division shifts next season.

HEDNESFORD TOWN (4-4-2): S. Cooksey — P. Coffey, A. Gormin, P. Blades, K. Collins (sub: A. Hemmings, 80min) — G. Fitzpatrick, C. Beeson, P. Watt, R. Deronson — M. Heston (sub: D. Francis, 89), J. O'Connor.

DARLINGTON (4-3-3): D. Preece — S. Shaw, A. Clancy, J. De Vos, F. French (sub: M. Burnard, 70) — S. Adcock, S. Gaughan, M. Cawley — G. Naylor, D. Roberts, P. Robinson (sub: L. Brydon, 65).

Referee: P. Richards.

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Sky kicks Rider into touch at Twickenham

This was the game that will have broken hearts at BBC Sport. For years, they have been able to look at Sky's massive investment in sporting rights and think: "Hm, what have we missed?" Some thrilling FA Cup Premier League games, the odd important World Cup qualifier, those historic British Isles victories in South Africa, some very expensive boxing, two Ryder Cup victories.

But this was different. England against New Zealand was one of those extraordinary occasions of shared national consciousness that the BBC has been accustomed to calling its own. Only this time, it wasn't. For the corporation, there was no hiding place — this was not a victory in some

far off foreign land, the team was not British or European, nor even Canadian by birth. This was England, Steve Rider's England, playing their socks off at Twickenham, a ground that the BBC used to call home.



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

Not any more. This was the day when the satellite channel finally got its reward for all the club games that it has patiently covered and for all the fibres that it has endured for the miserable television audiences such games normally attract.

Mark Durdin-Smith welcomed us to Twickenham an hour before kick-off, but there was none of the meretricious hyperbole that the channel sometimes goes in for. "A win today would be barely believable," he said. None of his

studio guests — Nick Farr-Jones, Bill Beaumont and Stuart Barnes — disagreed. What happened after kick-off is all about sport, not television coverage, but what happened after the final whistle is. Over on BBC1, for instance, *Grandstand* — still just about the flagship of television sport — couldn't even bring us the result. Full time at Twickenham coincided pretty neatly with half-time at Murrayfield, but Rider broke off from his chat with Jonathan Davies only to bring us the half-time football scores.

While controversial from a news point of view, the omission was perfectly understandable in terms of ratings. The delayed ITV coverage of the game was due to get underway in half an hour's time and the BBC was not about to give it a free plug, especially as up to, but possibly not including, Saturday, England against the southern hemisphere has been something of a disaster for its competitor.

It's not just the disappointing audience — which has averaged between 2.4-3.0 million for the three preceding games — but the timing of the coverage. For both ITV and BBC1, the serious business of building up a Saturday night audience to the 11 or 12 million that regularly watch *Casualty* or *Blind Date* starts at tea-time. No one wants to start from a base of 2.5 million. That is why ITV unexpectedly, but unrepentantly, gave up any pretence at "as live" coverage for England against South Africa nine days ago and went for edited highlights.

On Saturday, they did the same again — the cruel moral being that not even the best rugby match seen for years can attract an audience to match repeats of *Are You Being Served*. Honestly billed as highlights and edited rather more smoothly than the week before, ITV's coverage worked pretty well, even if Will Carling looked somewhat more uncomfortable in the presenter's chair than he did at the outset four weekends ago. Mind you, presenting a television programme at the same time as you are unceremoniously shoved into history cannot be easy.

'Losing 23-9 at half-time, what was this? Not what I had come to expect of my beloved All Blacks'

Fans draw limited cheer from recovery

Over the Thames, a ferned flag snapped in the breeze, black against a bright cold sky. We watched from the bank, following the crowd, as its bearer crossed Twickenham Bridge and the silver river slipped below. I might as well get this over with now and admit it: my companion and I, our hearts with the All Blacks, were rebels both on English soil and thought this was the banner of a cause bound for victory and that this was no bad thing. My new-found allegiance — which seemed to arise from the moment I'd slipped on that sturdy, midnight jersey — had a sweet and seductive power.

But everything was different this week. I was not shunted out of a train at soulless Wembley, funnelled with bleak efficiency towards its twin towers. I was not surrounded by the massed ranks of the ebullient Welsh crowd, who seemed filled with fire and joy before the game, despite the scale of the challenge they faced, despite the stadium's chilliness, despite the grey day. Instead, I strolled gently through the very model of prosperous England on the edge of urban life — the word suburb doesn't really do for Richmond and Twickenham. The crowded Saturday morning shops, the splendour of Richmond Green, the snaking Thames, the high houses with their bow windows and, the closer I got to the stadium, the pubs crowded with clutches of the tall and Barbour'd, sucking on their pipes and talking in voices much lower than I'd expected.

For this was different too. There was a subdued feel in the autumn air. People kept their heads together, talked quietly as they approached the stadium. It was all very sedate, like someone had thrown a blanket over the proceedings. But inside the green-tinted stadium, I saw them, the sideline

ERICA WAGNER



soldiers with painted faces, red and white. Just next to us, there was a whole mass of them, a battalion in enormous silly hats, waving flags and banners, shrieking and writhing for the television camera that inevitably turned upon them. Little boys, who would doubtless turn into new versions of the enormous men who'd brought them, darted past our legs, wrapped in ragged Union Jacks.

"How do they do it?" my companion asked me. "Get so excited, when..." but he didn't say what, when. Hubris is a dangerous thing. "How do they do it?" I asked him, gesturing towards the dark door from which the teams would emerge. "When they must know..." but I didn't say, know what. Hubris is a dangerous thing. He shrugged. "You can't think you're going to be beaten," he said. "Otherwise, you just couldn't play."

But when the non-playing All Blacks strolled across the bottom of the pitch in their dark suits and



The haka was unconvincing, a portent for a match in which New Zealand failed to complete their expected rout of England. Photograph: Clive Brunskill / Allsport

overcoats like a convention of titanic undertakers, they seemed the harbingers of a foregone conclusion. The stands were full now, rippling, rustling, as hushed as over 70,000 people can be. There was a last-chance air about you could feel something was up the moment that the teams pulled on to the pitch. The All Blacks — well, lumbering, moving as if all that mass had finally caught up with them, given them a taste of gravity. Then the English, sweeping out fast — running, not jogging — white and light. There was gravity at the haka too, its gestures not so broad, its leap not so high. And after the kick-off, something was certainly up. Last week's Wales v New Zealand game, the

first match I'd seen, had made me expect onslaught, overthrow, rout; but it was not to be.

Five minutes in, David Rees scored the try that made the stadium quake with an English roar — and the first of many choruses of *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*. I had expected *Jerusalem*, but I was discovering that this was a day when expecting anything was clearly a grave error of judgment. In my black jacket — pure chance, you understand — I fidgeted, sat back and waited for my contrarian triumph.

Blow me down if it just didn't come, and all those kids with painted faces and banners got louder and louder and wilder and wilder and seemed, after all, to be

on to something. Last week, the New Zealanders had moved with precision and grace; this week, the black panthers just kept getting stopped in their tracks. Four minutes passed: another English try. Six more minutes: another. I could see what was going on and, despite my companion gravely informing me that the English tries were somehow the result of luck not-quite-justly rewarded, it didn't really seem to be the case.

Any sense of the subdued had vanished from the erupting, astonished crowd. It was extraordinary to watch, the English crowd and the English team becoming one, each lost without the other. It

carried me with it, though I stuck valiantly by struggling New Zealand. Struggling New Zealand! Losing 23-9 at half-time, my God, what was this? Not what I had, almost instantaneously, come to expect of my beloved All Blacks.

In the second half, life improved — but not enough for me. I tell you, not enough. After 62 minutes, I thought my heart would burst when Little's try and Mehrtens's conversion (see? I know their names now) took the All Blacks past the English at 26-23. I was panting. I moved and swayed — all right, usually in the opposite direction to most of the crowd — and hoped and thought it was, at last, a certainty — until Grayson's penalty took it to a draw. This was

not at all what I had come to expect last week when the All Blacks' thundering victory made the smell of blood sweet.

And then it was over. I stood still and rather alone in the sweeping, shouting crowd, now racing on to the green pitch to acclaim their heroes in the failing light of a winter afternoon. I buttoned up my black coat and headed out into dusky Twickenham.

Well, no, it was not a victory. It was a draw — so there — but fond as I'd become of my black jersey, I had to admit I'd seen England play a terrific game and perhaps the thrill of the unexpected is just as exciting as the thrill of victory.

□ Lynne Truss is away

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Question of qualification

From Mr T. Williamson

Sir, Am I the only follower of rugby union who objects to the process of qualification for the All Blacks?

During the Old Trafford international, the television coverage boasted Jonah Lomu to be the first All Black of Tongan descent, while Frank Bunce played for his original regional team, Western Samoa, in the 1991 World Cup.

Qualification seems to be based upon time spent playing in New Zealand. Somehow, I think there would be uproar if England fielded a side containing Lacroix and Tuigamala!

Even the Australians are to get in on the act, with Patricio Noriega due to make his debut in nine months' time. I feel that this is typical of the new breed of rugby mercenary. I pine for amateur years gone by!

Yours faithfully,
TOM WILLIAMSON,
9 North Avenue
Exeter, Devon.

From Mr Paul R. Martin
Sir, With reference to Robin England's suggestion (Sports Letters, December 1) that the

England XV face up to the Kiwis "seven feet of soil away", reminiscent of King Harold when he squared up to Harold Hardrada, all one can say is look what happened to King Harold at Hastings!

My own suggestion would be to invoke the spirit of a mere recent and well known hero — Admiral Nelson and his "Ships! I see no ships" attitude. Surely the sight of 15 Englishmen kited out in eye patches and telescopes to the covered eye would render the All Blacks incapable!

Yours faithfully,
PAUL R. MARTIN,
25 Borneo Street,
Putney, SW15.

From Dr S. A. Khan

Sir, Last Saturday night the haka was performed with much shouting and exuberant slapping of thighs in Baker Street underground station and, when the final jumps ended the display, the crowds on both up and down platforms clapped enthusiastically. I presume that the "whites" who were the performers were from New Zealand. I am pretty sure that had the haka men been Maoris, their reception would have been ecstatic.

Yours faithfully,
S. A. KHAN,
1 Hayfield Yard,
London E1 4LL.

Football and its fundamental priorities

From Mrs Christine Sullivan

Sir, At considerable expense we acquired tickets for the recent Manchester United v Wimbledon game. My son is nine years old and a great fan of Manchester United and he had a wonderful afternoon. However, he also returned with a publication entitled *Red Issue*, which I was shocked to find was filled with foul language and explicit references. It is totally unsuitable to be sold to children and yet carries no warning about the nature of its contents.

I am interested to know how it is licensed, to which board of control, if any, it is answerable and, what association it has with the club. The children of today are the players of tomorrow. Surely this is not the image football wants to send them?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE SULLIVAN,
239 Knightsbridge, London SW7.

Jamaica claim

From Dr Pamela Beshoff

Sir, Rob Hughes describes Jamaica's World Cup football team as "effectively Britain's B squad" (report, December 3), but I suggest that he has got it the wrong way round.

If such English luminaries as Paul Ince, Ian Wright and Andy Cole, to name but a few, were playing for Jamaica (which, in another scenario, they would be entitled to do) then England might

well then be "Jamaica's B team". Yours sincerely, PAMELA BESHOFF, The Coach House, 112 Hampton Road, Twickenham TW2 5QS. georgianja@compuserve.com.

West Indies fall

From Mr L. Fraser-Mitchell

Sir, The appalling recent results by West Indies cricket teams prompt the question — how can they have fallen out of

form so much? I think the answer is much the same as the answer to England's slump — players seem to have lost pride in playing for their country and concern themselves solely with personal performance and how much they get paid. This was never the spirit in which cricket was meant to be played. Yours faithfully, LESLIE FRASER-MITCHELL, Fraser's Rest, Briar Close, Necton, Swaffham, Norfolk.

Pride in past pupils' success

From Mr Jim Page

Sir, Gerald Davies, superb wing three-quarter and magnificent writer, may well extol the feat of Llandovery (Sport in Schools, November 24) in producing 40 future Wales international players, likewise Barrie Lloyd (Sports Letters, December 1) can indeed take even greater pride in the famous Fettes having gone two dozen better, with an international blend of 64.

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution, founded in 1810, has produced 72 players who have become Ireland internationals.

Is "Inst" the only school to have the honour of two Lions captains — Sam Walker, in South Africa in 1938, and Robin Thompson, in South Africa in 1957? In all, ten former pupils have become British Isles players.

One notable artefact of world rugby is Instanbur in origin. Sir Donald Currie (1825-1909), a Greenock-born Scot and pupil at "Inst" in the 1830s, founded the Union Castle Company, a vital link between Britain and South Africa, in 1900, donating the Currie Cup for inter-provin-

cial rugby. For almost a century, his trophy has been fiercely contested annually in the most spectacular rugby seen anywhere in the globe.

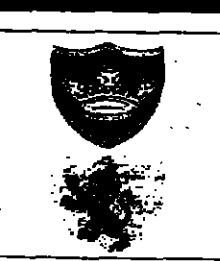
Yours faithfully,
JIM PAGE,
11 Glenbroome Park,
Newtown Abbey, Co Antrim.

From the Rector of The Glasgow Academy

Sir, The fine records of Llandovery and Fettes in producing rugby internationals are surpassed by that of The Glasgow Academy, which has, to date, produced 81 international players, all for Scotland. I suppose the school was off to a flying start, as six Glasgow Academicals played in the first international match in 1871 between England and Scotland. The Scottish Rugby Union was later formed in what was then the Masters' Common Room of our school and 15 former pupils have served as Presidents of the SRU. This may not put us "top of the league", but I hope we may be able to add to the totals in the future and so extend the splendid tradition of Glasgow Academy pupils representing their country.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID COMINS,
The Glasgow Academy,
Calebroke Street,
Glasgow G12.

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**
Oxford or Cambridge — who will win the University match at Twickenham? David Hands sets the scene for rugby's traditional end-of-term fixture.

■ **Wednesday**
Russell Kempson reports on Aston Villa's attempt to progress in the Uefa Cup.

■ **Thursday**
England's cricketers in pursuit of success — at the women's World Cup in India and in Sharjah.

■ **Saturday**
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match, Oliver Holt, Danny Baker and Frank Leboeuf.

Gallant England exceed all expectations by sharing honours with All Blacks

Dallaglio's example inspires epic response

England 26
New Zealand 26

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ONE back-row forward, Zinzan Brooke, led the way on to Twickenham on Saturday in celebration of his hundredth and last appearance for New Zealand, but another, Lawrence Dallaglio, of England, wrote his name time and again over an utterly compelling match that lifted the soul, purveying the quality and pace that makes rugby union, at its best, so complete and satisfying a game.

There was a heroism about it, too. When you felt that neither team had more to give, they dredged up reserves to go in search of a win that would have given New Zealand a glorious dozen — 12 wins from 12 international starts this year — and England the success that only they and their management believed was achievable. Yet the draw, the first in 20 matches between these two countries, is incalculable in its effect for England.

Could this young team really have come so far, so fast, since their autumn series began with another draw, against Australia? That game was painted in drab shades of grey, while Saturday's splashed the colours of the rainbow over Twickenham's canvas. They have learnt so much — about techniques, about coping with the atmosphere of a game played before 70,000 people and about themselves.

Dallaglio and Clive Woodward, the England coach, said there was no euphoria in the changing-room after all was over: that the win they felt they should have taken had once more eluded them. They should not short-change themselves. On balance, the greater number of try-scoring opportunities fell to the All Blacks, but, time and again, they took the wrong option and turned away from the wider game, forced into doubt and error by the quality of England's stifling defence.

John Hart, the New Zealand coach, who was as generous in his praise of England as



Mehrtens, the New Zealand fly half, is sent crashing to the ground by the force of a tackle from Perry, the England full back. Photographs: Clive Brunskill / Allsport

he was miserly in the first game between the teams at Old Trafford, said that his players "butchered" five potential tries — and so they did. But at this level you create good fortune and England did so.

One 24th-minute cameo tells the tale. Brooke and Jeff Wilson sent Christian Cullen speeding into the England 22, outside Matt Perry, before Austin Healey clawed him down. Still it seemed that Norman Hewitt would take the inside pass and claim his first international try, before

Richard Hill crashed him down five metres short. The ball fell loose, black shirts were at hand, but Healey had recovered in time to secure the ball and push it into touch.

England have learnt sometimes painfully, that it is not enough to make one tackle, that you have to bounce up and do it again and again — just as, in attack, they must recycle ball again and again until the chink appears in the opposition's armour.

In that respect, the back row as a unit was outstanding, with all the pace that

Woodward seeks to support his game of width. Yet he has also found himself a wing, in David Rees, with the bravery to go where Rory Underwood was strongest — the bruising, damaging dash into the corner — and another, in Healey, who is so light on his feet that he will bob up like a cork anywhere on the pitch.

None of which would have mattered much had not Paul Grayson had the strength of character to play a game with which he is less than familiar, so close to the advantage line that he could almost smell

Josh Kronfeld's hot breath. Grayson, dubbed England's last option at fly half, may have missed the tackle that allowed Walter Little to score New Zealand's second try, but he played in the traffic, offering himself as a target so that his back division could prosper.

All this amid a crowd that watched, with a mounting sense of disbelief, as England scored three tries within 16 minutes of the start of the Royal and SunAlliance international, to open a 17-point lead over the team universally

regarded as the best in the world.

Leadership still means so much in a team sport and, while the injured New Zealand captain, Sean Fitzpatrick, suffered in the West Stand, Dallaglio demanded by his own example yet more from his players. Even on a day when the lineup was a disaster — the All Blacks had a 17-6 advantage — two of their takes coming from English throws — England kept the ball in hand, mindful that Woodward had challenged them to score 35 points. "Talk

to a bunch of English players about that sort of target and the blood tends to freeze in their veins," Woodward said — but not this young crew.

Rees, chipping Lomu with insolent ease, beat Bunce and Kronfeld for the first try, requiring five stitches in his gum after a collision with the corner flag. Grayson sent Healey and Greenwood haring away, with Hill in faithful attendance, for the second and, when Bunce placed the ball in the tackle, Dallaglio teed it through and brushed aside Lomu to win the touchdown.

New Zealand could muster only three penalty goals, though the half-time advantage would have been far closer had not Wilson slightly overrun Randall with the England defence beaten. But the third quarter was England's ultimate test of character; to see a substantial lead nibbled away is unnerving.

Brooke and Marshall, from a tapped penalty, created the first All Blacks try for Mehrtens on a day when the fly half's judgment was less than immaculate. An easy penalty followed, reducing the lead to four points, and, when Stimpson failed to gather in Mehrtens's high kick, Allen rumbled on and Little stepped in masterful fashion through to the posts.

The statistics showed that New Zealand crossed the gain line 42 times, against England's 19, and that they dominated the rucks 67 to 44. How could they not win, given that preponderance of possession? Yet England forced an offside decision in the shadow of the New Zealand posts and Grayson calmly levelled the score with his third penalty goal.

Mehrtens pushed a dropped goal wide and players from both teams were swaying on their feet at the unrelenting pace, but they could still structure a game that will assuredly be remembered as a classic of its kind.

SCORES: England: Tries: Rees (5m), Hill (9), Dallaglio (18). Conversions: Grayson. Penalty goals: Grayson 3 (20, 40, 71). New Zealand: Tries: Mehrtens (43), Little (65). Conversions: Mehrtens 2. Penalty goals: Mehrtens 4 (14, 32, 35, 54).

SCORING: SECONDS: England first 5-0, 10-3, 17-3, 20-8, 20-8, 23-9 (half-time), 23-16, 23-19, 25-26, 26-28.

ENGLAND: M B Perry (Bath), D L Rees (Sale), T R O'Brien (Newcastle), 6-18m, W J H Greenwood (Leicester), P R de Glanville (Bath, rep. Stimpson, 50), A S Healey (Leicester), F J Grayson (Northampton), K P P Blackman (Scarlets), rep. M J S Dawson, Northampton, 50; J Leonard (Rugby), P Coudan (Leicester), rep. M P Regan, Bath, 64; D J Garforth (Leicester), M O Johnson (Leicester), G S Archer (Newcastle), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain), N A Black (Leicester), rep. C M A Sheehy, Wasps, 20-29; P A Hill (Scarlets).

NEW ZEALAND: C M Cullen (Manawatu), J W Wilson (Otago), F E Bunce (North Harbour, rep. S J McLean, 75), W K Little (North Harbour, rep. C J Spencer, Auckland, 65), J T Lomu (Coastal, A P Mehrtens (Canterbury), J W Marshall (Canterbury, captain), M R Allen (Manawatu), N H Hewitt (Southland), D M Brown (Auckland), I D Jones (North Harbour), R M Brooke (Auckland), T C Randall (Crus), J A Kieffer (Crus), rep. C C Riechmann (Auckland, 53-55), Z V Brooke (Auckland). Referee: J M Fleming (Scotland).



Rees dives over in the corner for the try that opened England's account

MATCH FACTS: ENGLAND v NEW ZEALAND

LINEOUTS

	Award	E22	EH	NZH	NZ22	Run	Kick	Drive	Lost	Void
England	9	2	5	1	1	7	5	—	2	1
New Zealand	15	2	7	5	1	16	9	—	7	3

Lineout wins: 9 Jones; 3 Randall; 2 Archer; 1 each Johnson, Perry, Hill, R. Brooke. England won two not decisive and New Zealand one. Void: 1 knock on

SCRUMS

	Award	E22	EH	NZH	NZ22	Run	Kick	Drive	Void
England	9	6	3	—	—	2	6	—	1
New Zealand	12	1	2	7	1	7	3	2	—

Reason for England — 5 Knock on; 2 Forward pass; 1 Held up; 1 Ball to ground; New Zealand — 4 Ball to ground; 4 Held up; 3 Knock on; 1 Forward pass.

PENALTIES

	Award	E22	EH	NZH	NZ22	Run	Found touch	Miss touch	3pts	Miss	Scrum
England	14	5	4	4	1	6	3	—	3	—	—
New Zealand	9	4	3	2	—	2	2	—	4	1	1

Conceded: England — 3 Took out the man; 2 Offside; 3 Hands in the ruck; 1 Over the top; 1 Not releasing; 1 Not 10m; New Zealand — 4 Offside; 4 Not releasing; 2 Over the top; 2 Back chat; 1 Late tackle; 1 Not bound. There was also one Free Kick to England — Lineout offence

KICKING RECORD

	Cons		Pens		Total		%
	Atts	Suc	Atts	Suc	Atts	Suc	
P Grayson	3	1	3	3	6	4	67
A Mehrtens	2	2	5	4	7	6	86

		(1) NEW ZEALAND
		(2) SOUTH AFRICA
		(3) FRANCE
		(4) AUSTRALIA
		(5) ENGLAND
		(6) WALES
		(7) ARGENTINA
		(8) SCOTLAND
		(9) IRELAND
		(10) ITALY
		(last week's positions in brackets)
		Based on all international matches since the last World Cup in June 1995

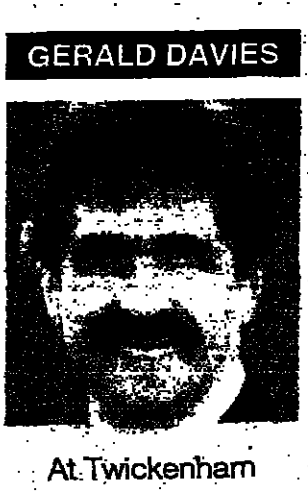
Fluent New Zealand uphold proud tradition

England not only managed to spoil New Zealand's moment of crowning glory, which would have encouraged others to defy them as the best team of all time, but also sprang a prodigious surprise. They contributed an equal share to a match that confirmed that rugby played at this pace and conviction provides grand and daring theatre. This was a breathtaking spectacle, if flawed.

John Hart has preached a gospel of unshackled rugby from his days with Auckland in the Eighties. Internationally, the All Blacks have put this into practice in the Nineties. If asked to define his philosophy, the New Zealand coach would not doubt answer confidently: "Go and see my team play." He does not merely talk a good game.

A similar query has been made of Clive Woodward, who also espouses a generous vision of rugby. After Saturday, without raising a sceptical eyebrow in his listeners, the England coach can boldly provide the same answer.

Yet for all the continuous thrills, there remained a nagging distortion. From the start, England's belief in playing with the ball in the hand brought rich and sudden rewards, while New Zealand, pursuing the same course, fell awkwardly astray in a man-



At Twickenham

England were also wont to drift. To sling the ball around incautiously is a hazardous occupation. There were many mistakes. Furthermore, the relentless pursuit of running with a ball in a hand regardless of space, time and position is foolhardy and makes rugby union resemble rugby league, two lines stretched across the pitch. In this way, rugby union loses its shape by adopting another. I am not certain to what extent this is ultimately to the good.

The essential difference between the codes is that union's undiminished attraction is the gradual unravelling of a team's physical and psychological defences, finally to break them down. There is, at ruck and maul, at scrum and lineout, a true sense of an unfolding drama. Rugby league, because of its laws, cannot accommodate this in the same way.

In view of England's extraordinary performance, this is a mere quibble, but what assessment finally to make of New Zealand? They are unquestionably a mould-breaking team. They play the nearest yet to what is commonly conceived as total rugby. Much has been said about their power and levels of fitness, but it is their higher standards of individual skills and, each player's ability to make the right decision that

AN IMPERFECT END TO A RECORD YEAR			
England's efforts at Twickenham denied New Zealand the chance to complete 1997 with a perfect record of 12 wins from 12 international matches. However the All Blacks have eclipsed the last calendar year wins of South Africa in 1995.			
NEW ZEALAND MATCH BY MATCH IN 1997			
Date	Opponents (venue)	Result	
June 14	v Fiji (Albany)	71-5	
June 21	v Argentina (Wellington)	93-6	
June 28	v Argentina (Hamilton)	62-10	
July 5	v Australia (Christchurch)	30-13	
July 19	v South Africa (Johannesburg)	35-32	
July 26	v Australia (Melbourne)	33-18	
Aug 9	v South Africa (Auckland)	55-35	
Aug 16	v Australia (Dunedin)	36-24	
Nov 15	v Ireland (Dublin)	63-15	
Nov 22	v England (Old Trafford)	25-8	
Nov 29	v Wales (Wembley)	42-7	
Dec 6	v England (Twickenham)	26-26	
1997 RECORD: Played 12 Won 11 Drawn 1 Lost 0 Points for 571 Points against 204			

have set them apart. Curiously, it was here that they let themselves down.

To say that they are the best team of all time is ill-conceived. Hart himself said that it is unfair, indeed impossible, to hold the sporting achievements of one generation against those of another. History, however, shows that the All Blacks have always been in the vanguard.

In 1905, they lost only once in 33 fixtures, beating En-

gland's champion county, Devon, 55-4. They registered 429 points in nine matches. If today we admire the ability of Jones, Brooke, Hewitt and the rest to join in among the backs, then what impressed Arthur Gould, the Wales centre of the last century, was the speed and agility with which the whole team of 1905 moved and that "everyone was a threequarter".

In 1924, they swept through this country to win every one

of their 28 games. They were Cliff Porter's "Invincibles". If we have come to admire the 21-year-old Christian Cullen at full back, in the mid-Twenties the All Blacks could boast George Nepia, who was, by then, considered the greatest in his position at the time. He was 19.

There is much more. If we respect their handling skills, who can forget Wilson Whineray, the captain and prop of the 1963 touring team, who ran and dummied his way over from 30 metres to score the final try against the Barbarians at Cardiff Arms Park? New Zealand also hold the records for the most consecutive international wins, with 17 between 1965 and 1968, and the most without defeat — 23 between 1987 and 1990.

The present All Blacks cherish their heritage and are simply continuing a tradition so great that they have made themselves the most respected rugby nation on earth. England will have felt a warm glow on Saturday evening, but they will feel accursed that, with a 17-point advantage, they did not finally enjoy the glory of victory. They are destined to be men who very nearly became famous, of which there are many. It comes to only the few to triumph against the All Blacks. England just missed that heroic chance.

"Wassail! Wassail! Was ale ever finer?"

A perfect combination of smoothness and strength, with a subtle blend of flavours. Available in all fine supermarkets and off-licences.

A most Gratifying Ale.

Brewed by Morland of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.

RACING: CELERIC'S OWNER IS NEXT SENIOR STEWARD OF THE JOCKEY CLUB

Spence takes position of power

By Richard Evans
RACING CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTOPHER SPENCE, owner-breeder of Celeric, the inner of the Gold Cup at Ascot, will be elected day after tomorrow as the next senior steward of the Jockey Club — an appointment which will have wide-ranging implications for racing in the next century.

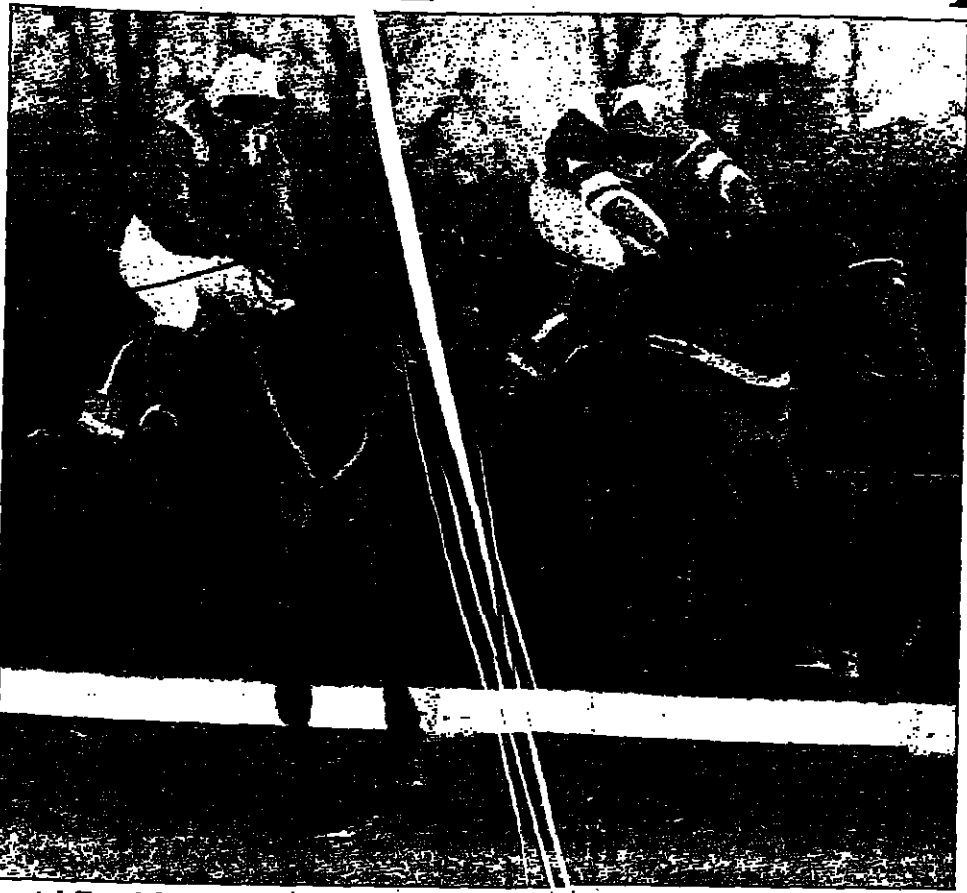
He will succeed Sir Thomas Blundell on July 1 and serve four years in the post. However, just as significantly, Spence's elevation to the top job in the Jockey Club also means he will return as a director on the British Horseracing Board (BHB), which has prompted speculation that he could succeed Lord Wakeham as the next BHB chairman.

Spence was not only a founding director of the BHB, but as a close friend of Lord Huntingdon, the first BHB chairman, he was deeply involved in the creation of a new racing body for racing.

Lord Wakeham's four-year term as BHB chairman ends in June 2001. However, because of the vagaries of the BHB election timetable, there is a chance that the former Conservative minister could step down from the post a year early. He was elected a BHB director in June 1995 for four years, which means he would have to re-submit himself for a further four-year term as a director 12 months before his chairmanship is scheduled to end as the chairman must be an existing board member.

I am far from certain Wakeham would wish to do this, especially as his patience with some board members and racing's squabbling faction has been stretched to the limit in recent months.

The timing of Wakeham's departure means less than with BHB director will command the support to assume



Ask Tom, left, leads Viking Flagship at Sandown on Saturday. Photograph: Ed Byrne

the chairmanship when it does become vacant. Peter Savill, the outspoken owners' representative, would not doubt like the job and he is recognised as having an excellent grasp of the options and problems facing racing. However, Savill's somewhat antagonistic manner means he has few committed supporters on the board — and he is considered an outsider for the job.

Angus Crichton-Miller, the new Racecourse Association chairman, has made a bright start as a BHB director but the distrust between owners and

be widely welcomed around the JHB table.

He is elected to the Jockey Club in 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001. He is chairman and chief executive of English Trust, an investment banking company formed in 1977. He is chairman of R Accourse Holdings Trust (RHT), the Jockey Club subsidiary which owns a dozen racecourses, and the Epsom racecourse, which oversees the 125-year-old.

However, he is best known as the owner-breeder of Celeric, whose magnificent victories in the Gold Cup and the Yorkshire Cup this year won him the Cartier award for stayer of the year.

Spence's formal election this morning will result in the juggling of various posts. He will step down as chairman of RHT next April and be succeeded by Christopher Sponborg, who in turn will resign as one of the Jockey Club's nominees to the BHB and be replaced by David Stier.

Spence will replace Sir Thomas Blundell on the BHB board, while David Mulvey and Andrew Parker Bowles will continue as the other Jockey Club representatives on the board.

□ Mongol Warrior and Smart Squall completed a double for Lord Huntingdon in listed races at Toulouse yesterday.



Spence: business skills

LEADERS OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS	W	L	W/L	W/L
M Pigg	108	8	13.5	-0.04
A J. Pigg	108	8	13.5	-0.04
M Pigg	108	8	13.5	-0.04
A J. Pigg	108	8	13.5	-0.04
M Pigg	108	8	13.5	-0.04
A J. Pigg	108	8	13.5	-0.04
M Pigg	108	8	13.5	-0.04
A J. Pigg	108	8	13.5	-0.04

JOCKEYS	W	L	W/L	W/L
A P McCoy	138	8	13.5	-0.04
A P McCoy	138	8	13.5	-0.04
A P McCoy	138	8	13.5	-0.04
A P McCoy	138	8	13.5	-0.04
A P McCoy	138	8	13.5	-0.04
A P McCoy	138	8	13.5	-0.04
A P McCoy	138	8	13.5	-0.04
A P McCoy	138	8	13.5	-0.04

LUDLOW

THUNDERER
1.1 The Sharrow Legend
1.2 Rosell Island (nap)
1.4 Club Caribbean

GOIN' GOOD

1235 MICHAEL PERROTTI NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE

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BASKETBALL

Leopards have the measure of Derby

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE mirth inspired by Annie-T Simons, the wife of the Leopards' owner, as she collected the inside-leg measurements of the players rounded off a memorable evening for the Budweiser League champions. "My boys need new tracksuits," she explained. "There's no other time we could do this."

Or place, it would seem. Drinkers in the bar at the Moorways Centre looked on with incredulity as the visiting players subjected themselves in turn to Mrs Simons' tape measure. Silly were they to believe their duties for the day were over after overwhelming Derby Storm 118-85.

Happy that he was at the prospect of his players being well kitted-out, the source of greater satisfaction for the club's coach, Billy Mims, was the smooth introduction of Ryan Cuff. "If we didn't have the best back court in the country before, we must have now," Mims said. Not five seconds had elapsed when Cuff hit the first of his two three-pointers on the way to a promising tally, on his debut, of 13 points.

One of the Americans released by Worthing Bears in the wake of their financial crisis, Cuff formed an immediate rapport with Burks and White. Burks finished with 34 points, White with 22 and the trio looked as if they had played together for years, not just for a week in practice. "Cuff is our kind of style," Mims said. "He enjoys making a good pass and he can shoot the three."

Derby, whose oft-Sin American forward, Rutledge, will fly home for more treatment on his fractured foot, were destroyed on the break by their opponents. The plan is for Rutledge to return next season. Meanwhile, Brendan Graves, a 6ft 9in forward from Vancouver, fills in.

Worthing Bears, too, are seemingly in decline. Decried by the departure of Cuff, Swords and Caton and an injury to Faux, they were crushed 105-72 by Crystal Palace in the Uni-ball Trophy.

Results, page 39

David Powell sees a fledgeling club bring fresh impetus to ice hockey



Vezio Sacratini, of Cardiff Devils, faces off with Karry Biette, of Ayr Scottish Eagles, during the Benson and Hedges Cup final. Photograph: Alex Livesey / Allsport

Ian Taylor has swapped the stick for the carrot, the former Great Britain hockey goalkeeper of some repute now having been charged with the task of offering ice hockey as one of the great temptations of British sport for anybody wishing to play a commercial part.

A week into his job as chief executive of the Superleague, Taylor was wooing potential sponsors at the Benson and Hedges Cup final at Sheffield Arena on Saturday, the lack of which was of particular concern to Bill Barr, the man behind the success story of Ayr Scottish Eagles.

Ayr won the cup within 15 months of their first match, a club that, as its captain, Angelo Catenaro, put it, is an "outcast up in no man's land, the only Superleague team from Scotland". Appropriately, given Taylor's presence, it was a match in which the newcomers excelled. Ayr defeated Cardiff Devils 2-1 in the climax to a tournament in which an average of 8.4 goals have been scored per match. It was not, as Barr admit-

Eagles crown swift ascent with cup final triumph

ted, a showcase, not a match that Taylor would want to appear in any promotional package, but the 2,000 travelling Ayr supporters were not complaining. They have taken to their team of imports, who are all from across the Atlantic, bar one — a Lithuanian.

The reason we have been able to keep the players in a place like Ayr, which has a catchment population of about 100,000, is because it is a nice place and the ice hockey is a community matter," Barr said. "Considering we started in September of last year, you cannot believe the progress that Jim Lynch and Milan Figala [the coaches] have made."

The story began when Barr, as a boy, spent Saturday nights watching Ayr Raiders,

taken by his father. "Ayr has been traditionally an ice hockey town, so it does not come as a surprise to me to see the best part of 2,000 people travelling to watch the team," he said.

Then, four years ago, a new ice rink at Prestwick was left unfinished when the businessman behind it ran into financial difficulties. Barr bought the £6.5 million concern for £100,000, spending £1.6 million to complete it.

Bringing Superleague ice hockey to Ayr has been an expensive operation for Barr, who, as owner of the town's football club, has learnt his lesson. "It is never a good idea to get your feet too far off the ground, because you come down with a big bump again," Barr said. "My football team won 6-0 two weeks ago and

only drew today. The Superleague is doing marvelously well, but it is going nowhere in terms of sponsorship."

That is where Taylor, a member of the Great Britain Olympic gold medal-winning hockey team in 1988, comes in. He has taken a drop in salary to join ice hockey from the bicycle manufacturer where he claims sales increased by 223 per cent during his three years as managing director. The Superleague offered the challenge that he was looking for.

Taylor predicts that, by 2000, the Superleague will have expanded from its present eight clubs to 12 or 14. One in London, he said, was essential to the commercial success of the sport. Already

franchises have been awarded for clubs in Belfast and Leeds.

Furthermore, Taylor predicts that, by the end of the century, present member clubs will be making a profit. Seven are run by businesses or wealthy individuals. "Bill Barr is one shrewd businessman," Taylor said. "Is he just putting his money in for goodwill? Or does he see there is real potential?"

Taylor's early impressions are that ice hockey in Britain "is a small sport that thinks small, but which should think big". He acknowledges that, eventually, teams will need to field home-produced players to heighten interest.

In the meantime, Catenaro is trying his best, Rusdskilike, in swearing allegiance to British soil. "While we are

here, we are Scottish," he said. "When I hear the bagpipes and people singing Flower of Scotland, it is special to me. I would like to learn the bagpipes and to wear a kilt."

Catenaro urged that the players should be given credit for working on fostering relations. "We go out in the community, and talk to people," he said. "I do not think they care where we come from, only that we wear their colours."

Cardiff, having led through a second-period goal from Doug McEwan, conceded two in the last ten minutes, to Sam Groleau and Jeff Hoad. If the match was not a classic, high skills were much in evidence. "The calibre of hockey has got so good that I think we could compete almost anywhere in Europe," Catenaro said.

His last words, though, will ring true with Taylor. "The Superleague administration has to catch up with the players and bring in the big corporate sponsors," Catenaro added. "It has to make the next jump on a promotional level."

GOLF

Price takes advantage of errors by Mickelson

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NICK PRICE, of Zimbabwe, won the Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City yesterday for the second time, his final round of 65 giving him a total of 275.11 shots more than his winning score in 1991, which remains the tournament record. Price had only a shot to spare over Davis Love III and Ernie Els, who shared second place, after Phil Mickelson, who had led for three days, finished weakly.

The win completed Price's second double of the year in southern Africa. He won the Zimbabwe Open last Sunday and took the Dimension Data Pro-am and the South African PGA titles in successive weeks in February.

"I felt I would have to get to 14 under to have a chance," Price said. "Phil let me in when he double-bogeyed the 5th. If he had scored that, I think it would have been a different story." The American left-hander dropped another shot at the 16th, missing a birdie chance at the next and bogeyed the last for a final round of 73.

Els, who was beaten in a play-off by Colin Montgomerie last year, birdied the last to put pressure on Price, his playing partner, who holed a nasty six-foot putt to ensure victory.

Price briefly held the lead at the turn after Mickelson had overshoot the green at the 5th, but he did not go clear until his fifth and final birdie at the 14th.

Price said the turning point of his round came at the par four 11th: "I hit it short and took the wrong club for my second. I had to come over a clover fringe and had to chip it with a three-wood out of the Kikuyu grass. The shot worked perfectly and left me eight feet short. I holed the putt for par. It felt like birdie."

Bernhard Langer, who won four titles in Europe this year, started the day in second place, but fell away with a 72 and finished fifth, ahead of the Open champion, Justin Leonard. Tom Lehman and Montgomerie were the only others under par.

Final scores, page 39

Cranleigh react fiercely in the throes of defeat

Cranleigh School 12
Eastbourne College 18

By MICHAEL AYLWIN

AFTER wandering across to watch his colleagues in the first XV play out the final moments of their match against Cranleigh, a member of the Eastbourne College third XV said: "That's why I will never be a first-team player — I just can't get psyched up enough."

The young man was moved to this wistful observation as he witnessed the violent throes of a defeated Cranleigh team that would have done well to temper their second-half performance with more than a sprinkling of third XV deference.

Boys will be boys, but some of the Cranleigh first XV brought a seething brutality to the second half. One hopes that they are aware of it. There were apologies to the Eastbourne coaching staff forthcoming from Cranleigh parents, the headmaster and first-team coach, Neil Bennett, who felt obliged at one point to invade the pitch in order to calm one of his players down. Bennett was clearly shaken by the end of the game.

In retrospect, it is easy to trace the fault line that undermined the match. Eastbourne, in winning this away fixture, are now unbeaten in 24 matches.



Stanley, who did an admirable job, keeps watch as the Cranleigh and Eastbourne players scum down

directed at Eastbourne through largely legitimate channels. However, Alex Simcox, the Eastbourne captain, deputising in the absence of a highly-rated No.8, Mark Lock, kicked three penalty goals before half-time to give his side an uneasy lead.

It was then that the game erupted, the spark being a vicious stamp to the face of Will Oldham, Eastbourne's promising open-side flanker. The thankless task of policing the game fell to Sarah Stanley, who coped as admirably as the Eastbourne players during the second-half onslaught. She missed the stamp, but a high tackle on Oldham a few minutes later prompted her to produce the first of three yellow cards to the Cranleigh team.

Oldham's elder brother, Nick, was a recent captain of England Schools and equally great things are predicted for Will, who exacted retribution against Cranleigh for his rough treatment with a performance of contained tenacity and sharp awareness. That, together with an appropriate plethora of penalties, allowed Simcox to kick Eastbourne to an unassailable lead, which a late try from David Max, who was a credit to Cranleigh, could not overhaul.

Andy Wynn, the Eastbourne assistant coach, who enjoyed a long-running rivalry through the Yorkshire schoolboys' ranks with Rob Andrew, was disappointed that his team were unable to score a try for the first time in their two-year unbeaten sequence. David Stewart, the head coach, was as relieved at the intact status of his players as he was with that of their unbeaten record. He could not remember a game like it in his 14 years in charge of Eastbourne rugby.

SCORES: Cranleigh: Trials: Anyel (12min), Max (88) Conversion: Dillies Eastbourne: Penalty goals: Simcox 6 (21, 30, 35, 50, 59, 62)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Cranleigh first): 5-0, 5-3, 5-6, 5-9 (full-time), 5-12, 5-15, 5-18, 12-18

CRANLEIGH SCHOOL: K. Sodande, J. Sparks, M. Dillies, D. Shaw, B. Maxwell, G. Forby, D. Gray, C. Knott, D. Avey, A. Chapman, C. Price, M. Byon, R. Hume, M. Anyel, D. Max

EASTBOURNE COLLEGE: H. Southern, A. Ross, J. Rogerson, N. MacLennan, R. Porter, S. Smith, R. Meek, A. Simcox, B. El-Tel, T. Gable, G. Price, N. Upton, J. Bennett, G. Morris, T. Gower, W. Oldham, P. Stewart

Referee: S. Stanley (London)

SKIING

Austrians assert themselves

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

IT TOOK him three days, but Hermann Maier finally climbed to the top of the podium with a victory in a super-giant slalom on Saturday that capped a week of Austrian domination in World Cup speed events at Beaver Creek, Colorado.

Maier started the season by finishing ninth in the downhill on Thursday, moved atop the overall standings with a second place in the downhill on Friday and led the second Austrian medal sweep in as many days with his super-giant slalom success.

"I wanted a good run in super-G because that is my best event," he said. "I put a lot of pressure on myself." That pressure inspired him to complete the difficult new Birds of Prey Course in 1min 16.20sec. It was Maier's fifth podium finish in the six races that he has entered this season and his second World Cup super-giant slalom victory in two years.

Early unofficial results listed Lasse Kjus, of Norway, in a tie with Maier, but Kjus had missed a gate and was disqualified. Stefan Eberharter finished second, in 1min 16.56sec, with Hans Knaus third in 1min 16.58sec. Another Austrian, Josef Strobl, was fourth in 1min 16.76sec.

Katja Seizinger, of Germany, won her fourth consecutive speed event of the season by completing a spectacular three-race sweep at Lake Louise, in Alberta, with a victory in the super-giant slalom on Saturday.

"I came to Lake Louise with the hope that I could get a victory, but I didn't expect that I could win three races," Seizinger said. Seizinger also won the downhill events on Thursday and Friday to take her career World Cup victory total to 32.

The Alpine Ski World Cup season switches to Europe this week with speed and technical races for men and women in Val d'Isere, France.

Results, page 39

SPEEDWAY

Newcastle forced to close again

By TONY HOARE

THE calm that followed speedway's annual conference was shattered when Newcastle announced it would not be running in 1998. The Premier League club told the British Speedway Promoters' Association (BSPA) on Friday that it would withdraw next year after failing to agree terms with its landlords.

New leaseholders at the Tyneside track have substantially increased the rent, claimed the Newcastle promoters, making it impossible for the team to carry on. The BSPA gave the club two weeks to declare its intent to run in 1998, but Newcastle claimed the leaseholders refused to budge from their rent demands and withdrew.

Closure is not a new occurrence for Newcastle fans, who have seen the Diamonds shut down five times in the past 25 years. This setback comes one season after the latest revival of the club, after two years out of action.

Previous promotions have struggled financially, with poor attendances hitting the Diamonds, but this year's crowd figures were good and George English and Dave Rowland, the promoters, were optimistic that the team would continue into 1998. However, the greyhound operation at the stadium bit trouble and the Receiver was called in.

Newcastle's biggest grumble is that the club invested a reported £40,000 installing a track and making other improvements at the start of the season. "It is impossible to run speedway viably on the figure we were offered," a spokesman for the club said. "There was a total lack of interest and support from the new leaseholders."

English spent Friday informing the riders of the closure. Jesper Olsen, the highest Newcastle scorer in 1997, must be wondering what he has done wrong, as it is the fifth time that the Denmark rider's spell with a club has ended in closure for the track since 1992.

Dublin's ambassadors enjoy a taste of high life

Christopher Irvine reports on the first match by an Irish side in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup

In the bar at Dewsbury Moor amateur club, Brian Corrigan was, as always, doing his bit for Irish rugby league, selling raffle tickets and leading the craic. A larger-than-life figure, Corrigan has sown the seeds back home of a sport with which he fell in love on seeing the dexterous hands and devastating tackles of Brian McGuire for Wigan and Great Britain in the Fifties and Sixties.

The late McGuire was an honorary Irishman, having represented Ulster at basketball while on National Service there. "He was the best passing prop forward the game's seen and it was a privilege to watch him," Corrigan said, his pleasure matched last Saturday by the historic participation of an Irish side in the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

Dublin Blues, an enthusiastic combination of rugby union players and a few Gaelic footballers, were beaten 32-7 by Dewsbury Moor, even putting one foot on the road to Wembley next May gladdened the heart of their pioneering chairman. "At Blackrock, it's two-men-and-a-dog stuff, so 200 was a big crowd for us," Corrigan, who managed the first Ireland Students' side in 1989, from which the Blues emerged two years later, said.

The West Yorkshire town of Dewsbury, part of rugby

league's "heavy woollen" district, was something of a homecoming for Corrigan. His students' side, largely second-generation Irishmen studying in England, trained there for the 1989 students' world cup.

Until the Rugby Football League (RFL) glimpsed the potential in Ireland and appointed a development officer in 1995, the Blues' only opponents were British amateur clubs on Easter or end-of-season jaunts. Today, there are eight affiliated clubs in Dublin and Belfast, split into north and south conferences, which is more of a basis than some areas when it comes to talk of a Super League franchise.

At least three more clubs further afield — in Killybegs, Clonmel and County Donegal — are set to join the all-Ireland competition next season and Ireland, who held France to a credible draw in Paris last May, will compete in an inaugural five nations' tournament next July.

Nigel Johnston, a former

Bradford player and the RFL's Dublin-based development officer, has found a surprising knowledge and enthusiasm for the sport among schoolchildren. "The impact of the Super League has been significant," he said. "We've concentrated on schools in less well-off areas, such as south Dublin, where rugby union is regarded as elitist and where the talent and aptitude for rugby league are clear."

British players of Irish lineage helped Ireland reach the 1995 emerging nations World Cup final, but home-grown talent is coming through.

Gavin Gordon, 19, who began playing for Baginbun Vikings while at school in Belfast and scored three tries against Moldova on his international debut, has joked London Broncos. "We find, too, that the toughness associated with Gaelic football leaves players well-placed to make the transition to league," Johnston said.

The Irish play league in summer, to avoid clashes with some players' commitments to union and Gaelic football. Dublin Blues were given only two weeks' notice for their Challenge Cup invitation, which presented some difficulties, especially as the side had not played since August and a couple of players were making their debuts. However, everyone stamped up the £110 fare and, with the promise of an all-night bar, a good time was had despite a somewhat predictable result against nuggety opposition from the National Conference League second division.

Dublin led briefly when Ian Davery, one of two internationals in the side, landed a penalty. The passing was generally slick, but the execution betrayed their lack of match practice. Their one try, an effective charge by Derek Dornan, came after six touch-downs by Dewsbury Moor.

Sean Cleary, the New Zealand-born Ireland boss forward and captain, said: "It was never going to be easy for us out of season, but we wouldn't have missed it for the world. Don't worry, we'll be back for another go next year."



Playing out of season, Aidan Cuffe, of Dublin Blues, strives to elude this tackle by Steve Carroll

Though Urmondo and McCormack were able enough

Coeddo Referee: S. Buggy (Llanelli)

Optim on Saturday, too late for most, not late enough for

Derwyn Jones, of Cardiff, rises above a lineout

Whitmore, J. Briggs, C. Lewis Referee: P. Adams (Edinburgh)

مكتبة الأهل



Brave enough to make a splash in middle age

Scene 1: A postcard beach in Barbados. Blue sky, gentle Caribbean surf, golden sand and palm trees. A large woman in a bathing costume emerges from behind a palm tree heading for the sea. Following her is Graham Dour, the smartly dressed manager of the Treasure Beach Hotel.

She walks into the sea and swims. Graham watches, silent until she manages a long series of strokes which take her out to sea in a long curve. Graham: "Carol, stop, you are heading to the St Vincent Islands." Carol stops abruptly in a flurry of snorting and coughing and walks back up the beach.

Scene 11: Three months before. A large woman in a bathing costume emerges from a changing room into a swimming pool in Central London. Blinking through her misted-up glasses she makes her way to the learners' section.

Enter the hero: Keith Gourd. Keith is my swimming instructor. I am the woman in the scenes above. He got me, in three months of half hours on Saturday mornings, to develop from being intolerably nervous of drowning, to tolerably confident of not drowning.

That lesson last March marked my first visit to a swimming pool for 30 years. I was not exactly terrified. It was more a mixture of extreme nervousness and embarrassment. I was typical of the adults Peter Cooper sees. He runs the Dolphin Swimming Club.

Our excuses for not having learnt vary. But our problem remains the same. We think too much, we are only too aware of the dangers of water, of drowning, of getting out of our depth and into trouble. Some serious aquaphobes hate water to the extent that

Carol Coles decided to learn to swim after an absence of 30 years from the swimming pool

they avoid getting their faces wet in the shower.

Peter, who qualified as a swimming instructor in 1966 and has taught for 30 years, has about 100 adults taking half-hour, one-to-one lessons with him and his team of instructors each weekend at the University of London pool in Malet Street. At the same time, some 300 youngsters are also being taught singly or in pairs.

Peter's instructors range from Keith, who has been a full-time instructor for nine years, but describes himself as having always been in swimming, to Francis, a 19-year-old student with a club background and all the right qualifications. In Peter's experience it makes little difference whether adults are taught by older teachers or young students. It is motivation that counts.

According to Peter, some are so frightened it is hard to fathom why they want to learn. Some turn up drunk,

some are overcome by sudden attacks of dizziness, others become hysterical as they edge towards the deep end, and others have nightmares on Friday nights before the lessons.

Learning to swim certainly confronts their fears, but it hardly seems to be fun and leaves them no safer from drowning. Statistically, it is experienced swimmers who drown. Non-swimmers do not swim, so they have little opportunity to drown.

Nobody is clear about how many adult non-swimmers there are in the UK. The Amateur Swimming Association has no idea and is even more perplexed by how swimming might be defined. The Sports Council says that swimming is the tenth most popular sport in terms of club membership, with some 288,000 members of 1,950 clubs. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents says that those most in danger of drowning are males aged 15-29.



Keith Gourd teaches Carol to swim at the University of London pool, above

In three months of half hours on Saturday mornings Carol, right, developed from being intolerably nervous of drowning, to tolerably confident of surviving

I was fortunate to be a 41-year-old female and just afraid, not completely terrified. Like most adult learners I had always had a vague intention of learning to swim, but had never got round to it. The first real barrier Keith has to conquer in his students, getting them to put their heads under water, was no problem.

I preferred to be as much submerged and invisible as possible in my uncustomised swimsuit.

Being short-sighted, I found the mixture of blurry, partial vision and underwater blindness unnerving. I do not think I would have persevered if I had been unable to get swimming goggles fitted with prescription lenses.

By my next lesson I had goggles. I immediately felt more at home in the water. So much so that I floated, which is the next stage in the learning curve. From then on it was a slow, but steady progress from pushing off and gliding to pushing, gliding and moving my arms and legs. There was a slight hiccup before we discovered that I crawl more naturally than breaststroke.

Keith encouraged me patiently from the side, compli-

menting me on the slightest improvement. His reproachful: "Now what happened there Carol, you were doing so well, why did you stop?" haunted my Saturday mornings.

During the week I visited other swimming pools and, while friends plough up and down the fast lane notching up their lengths, I gambolled around in the shallow end, practising.

The usual cautions about

consulting your doctor apply if you have any health problems.

Age is no bar to performance. Peter is a member of the Swiss Cottage Masters Club for over-25s who still want to compete.

I still have a way to go, but Keith has already taught me that, far from being frightening, water is fun. He has also given me a healthy respect for it. So far I have only played in the shallow end in pools. But now I need to practise in the deep end I shall have to tell the life guards I am a learner and ask them to keep an eye on me.

Which was how poor Graham got lumbered with being swimming supervisor on my holiday. Peter and Keith were adamant that a pool is vastly different from the sea and tyros like me should not be let loose on the latter without supervision. They were right. The sea is much more fun. If it can manage to have a reef full of darting fish all the better. Graham would not let me swim anywhere near the reef. But with my goggles on I could stand with my head under water watching it. I must ask Keith about snorkelling when the new term begins.

WHERE TO LEARN

PETER Cooper and the Dolphin Swimming Club can be contacted on 0181-349 1844. The half-hour lessons are one-to-one for adults and bookable by the term at £195 for 11 lessons. The Amateur Swimming Association suggests that your nearest local authority pool is the best place to find instructors prepared to teach, either on a one-to-one basis or in groups, and emphasises that you need to take a realistic view of the time needed for an adult. The Institute of Swimming Teachers and Coaches, Dawson House, 65 Forest Road, Loughborough, Leics LE11 3NW is compiling a list of instructors prepared to teach one-to-one.



PRESCRIPTION GOGGLES: WHAT THEY COST

SOME opticians will make you a customised pair of goggles with your prescription lens in it - but I was warned by the assistant of one optician's shop that because of the nature of the goggle material they could not guarantee that it would be identical to my spectacles' prescription. The cost of customised goggles can range from £49.99 to more than £100 and I could not detect much difference in the surrounding seal or the lenses, nor could the three opticians I asked to explain the price variation. The off-the-peg goggles I

bought were the Speedo Menace design at £19.99 from a sports shop. However, optical goggles, as prescription lens goggles are known, are now only available from registered opticians. They are made by the Cambridge Optical Group for Speedo and for details of stockists and prices, contact COG's customer service number on 01954 785100. From January the plain black Menace goggle will be joined by the Futura, as Speedo's most popular goggle goes optical and optical goggle wearers get the chance to go multi-coloured.

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مكتبة النور

Court of Appeal

Law Report December 8 1997

House of Lords

Inability to consent makes detention illegal

L v Bournewood Community and Mental Health NHS Trust

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Phillips and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Reasons December 2]

A hospital could informally admit a person for treatment for a mental disorder under section 131 of the Mental Health Act 1983 only with his consent. A person who had no capacity to consent or dissent, nor a guardian to consent on his behalf, had to be admitted under the statutory provisions in the 1983 Act, otherwise the hospital was detaining him. Since the common law principle of necessity was excluded by the statutory provisions, that detention was unlawful.

The Court of Appeal so held, giving reasons for having allowed on October 29 the appeal of L, brought by his next friend, against the refusal by Mr Justice Owen on October 10, 1997 of his application for judicial review of the decision of the Bournewood Community and Mental Health NHS Trust to admit him to hospital informally and keep him there. The Court of Appeal granted a declaration that the appellant had been unlawfully detained.

The appellant was autistic, unable to speak and had complex needs requiring 24-hour care. He had no ability to communicate consent or dissent to treatment. For 30 years he was a resident in Bournewood Hospital now run by

the respondent trust. In March 1994 he went to live with carers in their own home. They were very fond of him and treated him as one of the family.

While at a day centre he attended weekly, he became agitated. Since his carers, who were able to deal with such episodes, could not be contacted, a doctor was called. He was taken to Bournewood Hospital and admitted to the mental health behavioural unit where he remained. Since he made no attempt to leave, the trust believed that he could be informally admitted.

The carers were not allowed to see him while his needs were being assessed, as he might expect to leave with them. The trust intended to discharge him to the carers but not until he was considered fit for discharge by the hospital's clinical team.

The appellant applied for judicial review, seeking to quash the trust's decision to detain him, a declaration that his retention was unlawful and mandamus requiring his release forthwith. A writ of habeas corpus, and damages for assault and false imprisonment were also claimed.

Mr Justice Owen had refused judicial review on the ground that the appellant was free to leave. There would be no restraint until the appellant attempted to leave and then he would be taken to hospital. The appellant appealed.

After the Court of Appeal hearing the trust formally detained the

appellant under section 5 of the 1983 Act.

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Paul Bower for the appellant; Mr John Graze, QC, for the NHS trust.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the case raised difficult issues which could have a far reaching effect on the present approach to the reception, care and treatment of many mentally disordered patients.

Three issues were raised: (i) Was the appellant detained? (ii) If so (iii) Was that detention justified by the common law doctrine of necessity? (iv) If not (iii) What was the appropriate relief?

A person was detained in law if those who had control over the premises in which he was detained intended that he should not be permitted to leave those premises and had the ability to prevent him from leaving.

That was the appellant's position. If the appellant had attempted to leave the hospital, those in charge of him would not have permitted him to do so. He was detained in the hospital.

The 1983 Act was not an exhaustive code but was extensive in its application to those requiring treatment for mental disorders, defined in section 2.

The Act contained numerous provisions to protect the position of those who were admitted and treated in hospital under section 2(4), including the right to apply to

the independent Mental Health Review Tribunal which had power to order the discharge of patients. Section 17 dealt with after-care of the patient.

The right of a hospital to detain a patient for treatment for mental disorder was to be found in, and only in the 1983 Act, whose provisions applied to the exclusion of the common law principle of necessity.

Section 131, which preserved the right to admit a patient informally, addressed the position of a patient who was admitted and treated with consent. The trust had admitted the appellant and was detaining him for treatment for mental disorder without his consent and without the formalities required by the 1983 Act. It followed that they had acted and were acting unlawfully.

The whole approach of the trust was based on the false premise that they were entitled to treat the appellant as an inpatient without his consent as long as he did not dissent.

That was wrong. They were only allowed to admit him to treatment if they complied with the statutory requirements.

The common law powers of necessity could be exercised by an individual to protect someone by whom it was threatened that he would be injured. The 1983 Act covered the situation, no necessity to act outside the statute could arise.

A troubling feature was that the

trust was not alone in misinterpreting the effect of the Act. Apparently there could be many patients, especially those suffering from dementia, in the same position as the appellant, partly as a consequence of opinions in authoritative text books: see *Mental Health Law* by Brenda Hoggett (4th edition (1996) p9) and *Mental Health Act Manual* by Richard M. Jones (5th edition (1996) p340).

The court differed from those opinions. The current practice could not justify a disregard of the Act. That was especially true because of the undesirable consequences which could follow a practice which bypassed the safeguards provided by the Act for patients who were statutorily detained.

In a future emergency, where a person was in the appellant's position, the trust would have to decide whether or not it should exercise its statutory powers.

If it decided not to do so it could not admit the patient for treatment for mental illness. It would not have to turn such a patient away. The trust was entitled to look after the patient to prevent him from harming himself until other arrangements which were reasonably satisfactory could be made.

A declaration was made, nominal damages of £1 awarded, and leave to appeal to the House of Lords granted.

Solicitors: Scott-Moncrieff Harbottle & Sinclair; Beaschcroft Stanley.

Race bias is not inferred from unreasonable act

Glasgow City Council v Zafar

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Clyde

[Speeches November 27]

In considering under section 10(1)(a) of the Race Relations Act 1976 whether an employer had treated an employee "on racial grounds" ... less favourably than he treats or would treat other persons? It was irrelevant that the employer had acted unreasonably.

The comparison to be made was with reference to how that employer, not the hypothetical reasonable employer, treated or would treat other persons? An industrial tribunal was not bound to draw an inference of racial prejudice from the absence of any satisfactory explanation by the employer of differential treatment accorded to the claimant.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Abdul Rashid Zafar from the Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (Lord Ross, Lord Justice-Clerk, Lord McCluskey and Lord Morrison) (1997 SLT 281) who had allowed an appeal by the employer, Glasgow City Council, as successors to Strathclyde Regional Council, from the Employment Appeal Tribunal and set aside a finding by an industrial tribunal of racial discrimination.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal had dismissed the council's appeal from the industrial tribunal.

Mr Kenneth Mure, QC and Mr Sepala Munasinghe, both of the Scots Bar; for Mr Zafar; Mr James Peoples, QC and Mrs Sarah Wolfe for the council.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that Mr Zafar had been employed by the council as a social worker until his dismissal in March 1989. He had brought proceedings against it in the

industrial tribunal, which had dismissed all his allegations except that his dismissal had been unfair in the manner in which it had been conducted and that it had been racially discriminatory. The council had not appealed to the Second Division against the finding of unfair dismissal.

The industrial tribunal had made its finding of racial discrimination wholly on the basis of two inferences: first, that because the council had afforded to Mr Zafar treatment falling far below that of a reasonable employer, there was a presumption that it had treated him differently and less favourably than others; second, that, in the absence of a non-racial explanation for such differential conduct, it had no choice in law but to draw the inference that the reason for such less favourable treatment had been racial. The Second Division had held the tribunal to have been in error on both points. His Lordship agreed.

The 1976 Act required it to be shown that the claimant had been treated by the person against whom the discrimination was alleged less favourably than that person treated or would treat another.

In deciding that issue, the conduct of a hypothetical reasonable employer was irrelevant. The alleged discriminator might or might not be a reasonable employer.

If he was not, he might well have treated another employee in a way that in which case he would not have treated the claimant "less favourably".

The tribunal, having wrongly drawn the inference of less favourable treatment, had then held that, in the absence of any satisfactory non-racial explanation for such treatment, it was bound by authority to draw the inference

that such less favourable treatment had been on the ground of Mr Zafar's race.

Mr Mure had not attempted to justify that reasoning, but, since the authorities were in a state of some confusion, due in part to some words of his Lordship, it was desirable to clarify how the law stood.

The best guidance had been given by Lord Justice Neill in *King v Great Britain-China Centre* [1991] IRLR 515, 5180 who had said, inter alia:

"If an explanation is ... put forward or if the tribunal considers [it] to be inadequate or unsatisfactory it will be legitimate ... to infer that the discrimination was on racial grounds. This is not a matter of law but, as Lord Justice May put it in *Noone v North West Thames Regional Health Authority* [1988] IRLR 195, 198, 'almost common sense'."

"At the conclusion of the evidence the tribunal should make findings as to the primary facts and draw such inferences as they consider proper from those facts. They should then reach a conclusion on the balance of probabilities."

That was the guidance that should in future be applied. In particular, certain remarks of his Lordship (as Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson) in the Employment Appeal Tribunal in *Channay v Ministry of Defence* (1981) IRLR 331 and *Chattopadhyay v Headmaster of Holloway School* (1982) ICR 132 to the effect that the inference of discrimination on racial grounds "should" be drawn had put the matter too highly, was inconsistent with later Court of Appeal authority and should not be followed.

Lord Slynn, Lord Lloyd, Lord Hope and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Campbell Smith, WS, Edinburgh; Lewis Silkin for Simpson & Marwick, WS, Edinburgh.

Abuse to prosecute after assurances

Posternobile plc v Brent London Borough Council

Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Moses

[Judgment November 11]

Where local authority officers represented that planning consent was not required for temporary advertisement hoardings, subsequent prosecutions for failing to obtain planning consent were an abuse of process.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an appeal by way of case stated by Posternobile plc and quashing their convictions by Brent Magistrates Court on February 3, 1997 for displaying advertisements contrary to regulations 5 and 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations (SI 1992 No 666) and section 224(3) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991.

Mr Andrew Fraser-Urquhart for Posternobile; Mr Robin Green for the council.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that 25 separate informations were laid against the appellants by Brent London Borough Council for displaying advertisements without obtaining the necessary planning consents.

The appellants did not deny the charges but alleged that at a meeting held on September 27, 1995 between a planning consultant employed by the appellants and officers of the council the appellants were told that planning consents would not be required for the advertisements in question which were to be erected for one month or less.

The appellants left the meeting with the impression that consent was not required for the advertisements. Immediately after the advertisements were erected, the council commenced prosecutions

against them without any preliminary correspondence for not obtaining the necessary planning consents. The appellants submitted that to proceed with the prosecutions was an abuse of process.

His Lordship referred to the two main strands of abuse of process identified by Lord Justice Neill in *R v Beckford* (The Times January 27, 1993) (1994 1 Cr App R 94, 101) as cases where the court concluded the defendant could not receive a fair trial or where it would be unfair for the defendant to be tried. The present case fell into the latter category.

The council submitted that the officers' question were inexact and the appellants were wrong to rely on their advice. The officers had only given an expression of their opinion and not a promise not to prosecute.

His Lordship considered the appellants were correct in relying on the advice of the officers. It was not as though they had requested planning advice from one of the council's gardeners. The expression of opinion clearly invited the appellants they could proceed without planning consents.

Western Fish Producers v Penwith District Council [1981] 2 All ER 204, 209, 220 was distinguished as the present case was not concerned with a planning consent which was permanent but with the erection of advertisement hoardings around White City for one month or less.

It was important that the citizen should be able to rely on the statements of public officials. Once one accepted the advice had been given and there were no long term effects then it was an abuse of process to allow the prosecution to proceed and the correct procedure would have been for the council to withdraw the prosecutions.

Mr Justice Moses agreed. Solicitors: J. W. Godfrey & Co, Berkhamsstead; Ms Rosemary Hunt, Brent.

Commission not payable on sale through advertisement

Harwood (trading as RSBS Group) v Smith and Another

Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment November 14]

An estate agent with sole selling rights over vendors' property was not entitled to commission where, during the agency agreement but without any involvement by the estate agent, the vendors answered a newspaper advertisement from prospective purchasers which resulted in exchange of contracts for the sale of the property after the agency agreement had expired.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff estate agent, Mr Michael Harwood, trading as RSBS Group, against the order of Judge Hamilton at Hinchin County Court on May 21, 1996, as amended on June 9, that he was not entitled to commission from the defendant vendors, Peter James Smith and Anne Kirkland Smith, on the sale of their property at Terrace Gallacher and Gillian Gallacher.

Mr Brian Riley for the estate agent; Miss Antonia Morris for the vendors.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that the estate agent was engaged to act in the capacity of agent with sole selling rights of the vendors' residential nursing home for six months at a fee of 3.5 per cent of the agreed price. The terms of business contained the following definition of "sole selling rights": "The first (a) of the period in which case the commission was payable if the purchaser was a person 'who was introduced to you during the period or with whom we had negotiations about the property during that period'."

Paragraph (b) appeared to cover two alternatives: either the individual had been introduced to the client by the agent or the individual had been introduced to the client by someone else but the

agent had negotiated with him on behalf of the client.

That was the meaning of the paragraph which was arrived at on a consideration of how the language used would be reasonably understood by a client. That was the critical consideration.

Bearing in mind that the purpose of the definition was to bring the estate agent into the circumstances under which he would become liable to pay commission, the definition did not make it clear that he was still to pay commission in respect of an exchange of contracts outside the period when the introduction was not effected by the agent.

Accordingly, his Lordship did not accept the submission of the estate agent that the relevant words in paragraph (b) meant introduced by anyone.

They meant what, in context they would reasonably be understood to mean by a client reading the document, that was to say, introduced by the agent.

Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Mummery delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Howe Roche & Waller, Stevenage; Chivers Walsh Smith, Bradford.

Children need not keep name that mother changed

In re C (Minors) (Change of surname)

Although it was of fundamental importance for children to have an enduring relationship with both parents, notwithstanding their separation, where the mother no longer carried her maiden name it would not appear to be in the interests of the children, who were living with their father and had informally adopted his name, to carry her maiden name.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans and Mr Justice Wilson) so held on November 21 when refusing an application by the mother for leave to appeal from

Judge Cracknell in Hull County Court who on May 2, 1997 granted leave to the father to cause the children to be known by his name.

MR JUSTICE WILSON said that the parents had never been married and the children, now aged eight and seven, had originally used their mother's maiden name. They had been living with their father under a residence order since 1992, and from 1993 he had caused them to use his surname, not realising that change was prohibited except with the mother's consent or leave of the court.

The mother had since married and no longer used her maiden

name but wished the children to retain it for official purposes in order to preserve links with her.

Although *In re B (Change of surname)* [1996] 1 FLR 791 recognised the importance of such links, nothing in that judgment should be taken as indicating that it was desirable in principle that children should have different names for different purposes.

Although the stamp of parent-hood reflected by a surname should not lightly be erased, the mother herself no longer used the name so it was hard to see how its retention by the children for any purpose could significantly assist to preserve a link with her.

Scots Law Report December 8 1997 Outer House

English law no help in Scotland

James Howden and Co Ltd v Taylor Woodrow Property Co Ltd

Before Lord Penrose

[Judgment August 13]

Waiver in Scots law did not include the temporary suspension of a right.

In any event, where a party to a contract was advised by his lawyers that the other party had no right to rescind, he could not establish that the other party had waived such a right, because he could not show that he acted in reliance on such a waiver, since he believed at the time that the other party had no right to be waived.

Lord Penrose, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, granting decree of absolvitor in favour of Taylor Woodrow Property Co Ltd in an action of reparation brought against them by James Howden and Co Ltd.

Mr Richard Keen, QC and Mr Nigel Ross for the pursuers; Mr Christopher Haddow, QC and Mr Alan Hamilton for the defenders.

LORD PENROSE said that the pursuers had agreed to grant a lease of commercial subjects to the defenders. The agreement was conditional upon the pursuers' obtaining by June 30, 1990 discharges of any conditions affecting the title to the subjects which might reasonably be considered materially to affect their development. If that had not been done then both parties would be entitled to rescind.

In the event the parties disagreed as to whether certain conditions fell within that description. The pursuers had maintained that they did not, but without aid to that both parties had applied to the Lands Tribunal for Scotland for their discharge. By June 27 it was apparent that the tribunal would not decide the question before the contractual deadline.

On July 2 the defenders gave notice that they were rescinding. The pursuers contended that they had waived their right to rescind at any time before September 30, 1990.

A meeting had been held on June 27 at which the defenders had asked that the date by which either party might rescind be postponed to September 30. The defenders did not say that they intended to rescind or were considering rescinding. As a result the notice of July 2 was wholly unexpected by the pursuers.

After July 2 the pursuers had believed that they could hold the defenders to the bargain, and had acted consistently with that belief. Around July 10 they had received legal advice that there were in fact no title conditions that required to be discharged, and that for that reason the defenders had not been entitled to rescind.

For the purposes of their accounts the pursuers had at the time treated the contract as subsisting. The explanation for that was their legal view of the title conditions. Waiver had not played a part in that decision.

Prejudicial reliance was not a necessary condition of waiver, unlike personal bar: *Armia Ltd v Dejaran Developments Ltd* (1979) SC (HL) 581.

Centrally waiver consisted in the abandoning of a right in such a way that the other party was entitled to rely on that abandonment: see *Gibson, Contracts* (2nd edition, p281). Lord Fraser in *Armia*, citing *Banning v Wright* (1972) 1 WLR 972 and *W. J. Alan & Co Ltd v El Nasr Export and Import Co* (1972) 2 QB 189.

It had never been the pursuers' position that the defenders had abandoned wholly their right to rescind. The case was one of a temporary postponement of that right, a waiver of the right for three months only. The defenders contended that waiver connoted permanent abandonment of a right and not its temporary suspension.

The pursuers argued that there was abundant authority to support the view that waiver comprehended the temporary suspension of a right: see *Bower, Estoppel by Representation* (3rd edition, pp395-9; *Motor Oil Hellas* (Cor-

inth) *Refineries SA v Shipping Corporation of India* (The *Kanchenjunga*) [1990] 1 Lloyd's Rep 391, 399 per Lord Goff.

In his Lordship's opinion it would not be appropriate to adopt observations from eminent authorities in the law of England and seek to apply them in Scotland even where there was a similarity of language in the expression of apparently parallel rules.

It was particularly necessary to have regard to the distinction between the requirements of the law of remedies and the law of obligations.

Waiver operated in relation to the contractual obligation. It changed the scope of the creditor's rights and the debtor's obligations.

The English authorities to which his Lordship had been referred suggested that equitable estoppel, and in particular promissory estoppel which was relevant in the present context, was as much a function of the equitable jurisdiction of the court as it was of the law of obligations.

In *Bower* (at p355), there was an extensive quotation from *Ennamuel Ayodeji Ajayi v R. T. Briscoe* (Nigeria) Ltd [1964] 1 WLR 1326, which at least raised a question whether the suspensory character which promissory estoppel might have was fundamentally procedural in character.

However, whether or not it was correct so to understand the law of England, the case pointed to significant differences from the Scottish law. The Privy Council had referred to a party being estopped from enforcing his right unless he first gave reasonable notice and from being irrevocably estopped only if the other party had altered his position irreversibly.

Those factors might point to the element of prejudice in personal bar in the law of Scotland. They were not a feature of the Scots law of waiver.

It was necessary to return to the speech of Lord Keith in *Armia* and to later authorities in which the

factor of abandonment had been emphasised.

In *Lousada and Co Ltd v J. E. Lesser (Properties) Ltd* (1990) SC 178 the term "abandonment" had not been considered a loose expression that might encompass the giving of time or postponement of the exercise of the right compare *Atlas Assurance Co Ltd v Dollar Land Holdings plc* (1993 SLT 892, 894) per Lord Murray and Gordon v *East Kilbride Development Corporation* (1995 SLT 63, 64) per Lord Caplan.

A creditor's willingness to suspend enforcement would normally be a response to a request by the debtor or conditional on the debtor's promise of performance within the revised period.

One might be driven irresistibly towards consent as the source of the new position. Waiver was unilateral action which attracted a response in consent and was not dependent on consent.

As Lord Keith had observed in *Armia*, in English law waiver and variation of contract might be difficult to distinguish on occasion, given that the thrust of developing jurisprudence was to avoid the impact of the doctrine of consideration.

But the insistence on abandonment in Scots law at least had the advantage of emphasising the initial requirement for unilateral action in qualification of or departing from an existing right. The case of waiver failed.

If that were wrong, then a question would arise as to whether what had happened had amounted to a unilateral suspension of the defenders' right to rescind. If that had been the question, the pursuers would have failed to prove reliance on the defenders' conduct as waiver. In part because the pursuers had believed on the basis of their legal advice that the defenders did not have a right to rescind, and therefore could not have had at the material time a right which they could either abandon or suspend.

Law agents: Macley Murray & Spens; Gray Muirhead, WS.

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CHANGING TIMES

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

THE FACTS

Market capitalisation: £7.4 billion.
Turnover: £2.27 billion.
Pre-tax profit: £318 million.
Employees: 140,000.
Activities: The world's largest business services company. Traditionally best-known for pest control and washroom services, Rentokil Initial provides electronic security and manned guarding, hygiene and cleaning, distribution and personnel services, supplies and maintains tropical plants for work environments, and provides conference and training facilities. The company operates in more than 40 countries worldwide. In April 1996 Rentokil succeeded in a £2.1 billion purchase of another services company, BET.

THE BOARD

Henry King, the non-executive chairman, is a former chairman of Denton Hall, the solicitors.
Hans Werdelin, the vice-chairman, is chief executive of Sophus Berendsen, the Danish industrial group that owns 38 per cent of Rentokil Initial shares.
Sir Clive Thompson is chief executive and the main driving force. He joined from Cadbury Schweppes in 1984. He also sits on the boards of J Sainsbury, BAT Industries and Farepak. He is a member of the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance and will be president next year of the Confederation of British Industry.
Christopher Pearce, the finance director, joined in 1987 from County NatWest, where he was a director. Before that he worked at J Henry Schroder Wagg, a non-executive director of the Burton Group. He is also the deputy chairman of the Hundred Group of Finance Directors.
Other non-executive members of the board: **Robert Koch-Nelissen**, who is chairman of Sophus Berendsen.
Brian McGowan is chairman of the House of Fraser and formerly chief executive of Williams Holdings.
Robert Napier is chief executive of Redland, a Reigate neighbour of Rentokil Initial.
Earlier this month Ron Spinney, chief executive of Hammerson, joined as a non-executive.

Ask the average person in the street the first thing that comes to mind when you mention Rentokil, and they will probably say rat-catching. The average City analyst will say "20 per cent". Both associations are unrealistic, and both provide Rentokil Initial, the name we must learn to use since the £2.1 billion hostile takeover of BET in April last year, with something of a millstone.

The rat-catching goes back to 1904 and a proprietary rat poison invented by one company that would, some decades later, acquire another. This second concern had been killing deathwatch beetles with another proprietary chemical, called endocil. Some playing around with this name produced Rentokil.

The 20 per cent rule was installed by Sir Clive Thompson, the chief executive, when he arrived 15 years ago. Quite simply, both pre-tax profits and earnings per share must grow by this amount each year. Without fail. This has been achieved in the past, but it shackles the company to self-imposed expectations that others are not required to match.

Back to names. Not only does Rentokil fail to reflect the wide areas of the service sector that the group has grown into, but it is a positive hindrance in some of them, such as hospital services, with decidedly tasteless overtones there, and US security, with its implication of the gun-toting enforcer.

CORPORATE PROFILE: Rentokil Initial



Broad sweep: Rentokil is best-known for its pest control operation, above, but the group, which has been led for 15 years by Sir Clive Thompson, below centre, as chief executive, offers a wide range of services — including school meals provider and as a supplier of indoor plants and decorative trees

geographical and industrial spread — but not too wide. Service providers fall into two camps. There are small, low-margin enterprises — the Mrs Mopps and so on. And there are larger companies that make a turn by the economies of scale available from fielding an army of Mrs Mopps, instilling a discipline that lets them charge more than their smaller competitors and taking a margin from each operative in the field. This may be an oversimplification, but it is Rentokil Initial's method of operation.

Sir Clive said: "There are some who see us as a broadly based conglomerate — I don't see that at all. We see ourselves as an international services company operating in North America, Europe including the UK and Asia Pacific, focused on a relatively broad range of services to industry and commerce."

tomers, and are required to work by themselves and to a high quality. The skills to manage a company in the group are largely similar, whether in any of Rentokil Initial's six main service areas, of pest control, healthcare and hygiene, provision of tropical plants for offices and factories, manned security, electronic security and textile services, even if the activities on the ground differ. Those manag-

erial skills are organisational, ensuring high productivity by deploying workers so that they do not waste expensive time sitting in a van or shuffling from one place to another. That 20 per cent rule began as a purely internal discipline. It worked, giving managers a target — and a tool to detect areas not achieving their potential. Sir Clive says: "It has been a great advantage as far as the company is concerned

internally, and that was exactly what it was intended to do. But it tended to drift out into the public arena."

Then the City, after initial doubts, began to believe that it could be achieved. "At that stage, it was an advantage to the shareholders because the share price wouldn't have been as high," says Sir Clive.

Next, the City began to expect 20 per cent, and to worry what would happen if, one year, it were not achieved. There have been some near squeaks — earnings per share growth last year was just 20.5 per cent. "In recent years it has become a disadvantage, our shareholders say, because people are so focused upon it that they worry if you fail to achieve it," says Sir Clive.

He believes that the share price now is deflated by City expectation of the inevitable failure to achieve a target that most companies would not dream of. Institutional share-

holders, his argument goes, are unwilling to risk being in the stock when this inevitable failure arrives, and this deflates the share price further.

Will Sir Clive — one day formally ditch that 20 per cent milestone? "We undoubtedly will — within the next 150 years or so," he jokes, and one must assume it is a joke. In truth, market conditions could change so much that it is no longer practicable even to shoot at 20 per cent. His main worries are low inflation, declining markets, and a pound that strengthens further — overseas markets account for more than half of profits, and these will therefore be cut by up to 8 per cent this year, to judge from the interim figures.

It must be said that some in the City see things differently from Sir Clive. Twenty per cent growth can only be achieved, sceptics say, by the purchase of an unending stream of under-performing businesses that can

be turned round with their margins enhanced. This lifts average margins of the group as a whole, and it is from here, rather than from organic growth, as represented by gaining new clients, that most of the 20 per cent rise comes.

Such a view gained credibility with the 1996 results, from which it was clear that the 20 per cent target would have been well underbought but for the arrival of those BET businesses. Their margins were well below those enjoyed by Rentokil, in part because BET's philosophy was to provide total service packages as against the Rentokil approach of concentrating on the most profitable.

The question for the City is whether Rentokil Initial can keep up the momentum and jump that 20 per cent hurdle by improvements to the existing business and small acquisitions in its established areas, or whether it will need another BET-sized mega-acquisition, perhaps in another business area. This would be seen as risky. However, Sir Clive says that he has looked at catering, for example, and considered a bid for Compass, one of the most successful and fast-growing outfits in that sector, three years ago. "What we see for the next 15 months or couple of years is that we will continue to bed down BET while making in-fill acquisitions, or strategic acquisitions in countries we are already in," he says.

Rentokil Initial's financial record is impeccable, but the company has not scored well on the two external criteria used by The Times. Integrity Works says that the company "has not got around to stating its ethical standards explicitly" in the annual report. Sir Clive earned £2,569,173 in 1996, but according to Crisp Consulting's executive pay model he should have received £672,981, so the overpayment, on that basis, is 251 per cent. The number of non-executives is four, three fewer than the recommended upper limit. Their average pay is 29 per cent less than for all non-executives in FTSE 100 companies.

MARTIN WALLER

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression	2/10
Factual quotient	2/10
Financial record	8/10
Share performance	7/10
Attitude to employees	5/10
Strength of brand	8/10
Innovation	8/10
Annual report	7/10
City star rating	7/10
Future prospects	7/10
Total	62/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by Joseph Lyons. The Factual quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

NatWest Markets plans new shake-up

By FRASER NELSON

NATWEST MARKETS will decide this month whether to make its debt markets arm into a standalone business through a profit-sharing scheme where staff could own up to 50 per cent of the company.

The shake-up, which was being planned long before last Tuesday's £178 million sale of the equities trading arm, is to be carried out in the same way as that of the corporate advisory business.

The company said it is drawing up an innovative ownership scheme for both the remaining divisions, and will be ready to start work in the new year. The new structure, which will apply to the corporate advisory business as well, should ensure that salaries and bonuses do not spin away from the overall performance of the company.

A NatWest spokeswoman said: "The staff will own between 10 and 50 per cent of

the company, probably some where in between, but no decisions have been made yet."

The company said that although the debt business is to retreat from Hong Kong, at a cost of 55 jobs, it will bolster its presence in Singapore and Japan. The corporate advisory arm is to be renamed and become semi-independent, but the debt markets arm is likely to be folded into Greenwich Capital, which NatWest bought last year.

Derek Wanless, its chief executive, said the debt business would be better served within the NatWest Group and did not need a sister equity arm to balance out. "If you look at the real synergies around the group, many of them are in debt markets," he said.

The company is still trying to sell its Australian and Asian cash equities arm. Bankers Trust is buying its pan-European equities division for £129 million, while Deutsche Morgan Grenfell has agreed to pay £50 million for the global equity derivatives operation.

Care First aims to repel Bupa

Care First, the besieged nursing home company, claims that its returns are improving strongly. In a document defending against the bid from Bupa, it says that more cash is being generated, occupancy has risen from 83.7 per cent in June to 85.6 per cent in November and that payroll and other operating costs fell significantly as a proportion of third-quarter turnover.

Peter Jacobs, chief executive of Bupa, said the defence represented another case of "jam tomorrow". Bupa would still prefer an agreed deal.

Banking debt

The financial repercussions of the turmoil in South East Asian markets is likely to have a bigger impact than comparable crises elsewhere because most of the finance came from commercial banks. The Bank for International Settlements argues, Japanese banks were owed \$118.6 billion from Asian borrowers at the end of 1996. 32 per cent of the outstanding claims by major international banks of \$367.1 billion (£223 billion). European banks were owed \$145.5 billion at the end of last year, or 40 per cent.

Yamaichi bid

Société Générale, the French banking group, is to negotiate a takeover of Yamaichi International Capital Management, a fund management subsidiary of Japan's failed Yamaichi Securities.

KLM confident

Dutch sources are confident that KLM will win the hand of Alitalia after negotiations for a partnership. The Italian state airline has also been talking to Air France and Swissair.

Aidan Barclay

We wish to make it clear that the application for a casino licence at the Ritz Hotel, "Barclays seek new casino licence at Ritz" (November 24) is being made by The Ritz Hotel Casino Limited, a company wholly owned by Aidan Barclay, the son of David Barclay. Neither David Barclay nor his brother Frederick Barclay, the owners of the Ritz, have any interest in the application for a licence.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
In the County of Middlesex, in the High Court of Justice, in and for the County of Middlesex, in the matter of the estate of the late **JOHN ROBERT LLOYD**, deceased.
I, **JOHN ROBERT LLOYD**, of the County of Middlesex, in the High Court of Justice, in and for the County of Middlesex, do hereby appoint **JOHN ROBERT LLOYD** as Administrative Receiver of the estate of the late **JOHN ROBERT LLOYD**, deceased.

LEGAL NOTICES

CHANCERY COMMISSION
In the County of Middlesex, in the High Court of Justice, in and for the County of Middlesex, in the matter of the estate of the late **JOHN ROBERT LLOYD**, deceased.

LEGAL NOTICES

ROBERT LIMITED
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS DAWA ENTERPRISES LTD)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the company known as **ROBERT LIMITED** (formerly known as **DAWA ENTERPRISES LTD**) has been re-registered in the Companies Register of the High Court of Justice, in and for the County of Middlesex, under the name of **ROBERT LIMITED**.

LEGAL NOTICES

CHANCERY COMMISSION
In the County of Middlesex, in the High Court of Justice, in and for the County of Middlesex, in the matter of the estate of the late **JOHN ROBERT LLOYD**, deceased.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
In the County of Middlesex, in the High Court of Justice, in and for the County of Middlesex, in the matter of the estate of the late **JOHN ROBERT LLOYD**, deceased.

LEGAL NOTICES

CHANCERY COMMISSION
In the County of Middlesex, in the High Court of Justice, in and for the County of Middlesex, in the matter of the estate of the late **JOHN ROBERT LLOYD**, deceased.

LEGAL NOTICES

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CHANCERY COMMISSION
In the County of Middlesex, in the High Court of Justice, in and for the County of Middlesex, in the matter of the estate of the late **JOHN ROBERT LLOYD**, deceased.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the company known as **THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986** (formerly known as **THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**) has been re-registered in the Companies Register of the High Court of Justice, in and for the County of Middlesex, under the name of **THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**.

LEGAL NOTICES

CHANCERY COMMISSION
In the County of Middlesex, in the High Court of Justice, in and for the County of Middlesex, in the matter of the estate of the late **JOHN ROBERT LLOYD**, deceased.

GOLD FIELDS COAL LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
(Registration No. 1970/001494)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND AND CAPITALISATION AWARD

The company has declared a final dividend (No. 109) of 90 cents per ordinary share in South African currency, payable to members registered in the books of the company at 1200hrs on 31 December 1997 ("the record date"). However, the directors of the company have resolved to issue fully paid ordinary shares in the company as a capitalisation share award, in lieu of the dividend, to those members registered as such on the record date.

Members will be afforded the right to elect to receive the cash dividend instead of the capitalisation award. Full details regarding the terms of the capitalisation award and the procedure to be followed in respect of the election will be published on or about 23 December 1997.

The register of members will be closed from 1 January to 9 January 1998, inclusive.

By order of the Board
per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
London Secretary
S.J. Dunning, Secretary

London Office and Office of United Kingdom Registrars
Greenwich House
Francis Street
London SE11 1PD

Head Office
1200hrs on 31 December 1997
Registered in South Africa

A MEMBER OF THE
GOLD FIELDS GROUP

http://www.goldfields.co.za

Magnox Electric PLC. Porth Yr Ogof.

Notice of an application for consent to construct and operate a C.C.G.T. (combined Cycle Gas Turbine) Power Station on land at Porth Yr Ogof on the Isle of Anglesey

Notice is hereby given that Magnox Electric plc has applied under section 26 of the Electricity Act 1989 for consent of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to construct and operate a C.C.G.T. Power Station on land at Porth Yr Ogof on the Isle of Anglesey together with a direction under 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 that permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

The C.C.G.T. Power Station will have a generating capacity of 400MW

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the environmental statement explaining the proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, is available for inspection during normal office hours, at the Planning Department, Anglesey County Council Offices, Llangefni, Anglesey, LL77 7TW, Amwlch Library, Llan Parys, Amwlch, Anglesey, Holyhead Library, Newby Fields, Holyhead, Ynys Môn, LL65 1LA and Visitor Centre, Ynys Môn, Anglesey, LL57 0DH.

Additional copies of the environmental statement may be obtained, while stocks last, at a cost of £45 per copy including postage from Document and Information Centre, Magnox Electric plc, Berkeley Centre, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, GL13 9PB

Those wishing to make objections to the application are requested to write to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Electricity Directorate, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET

Please state the name of the proposed plant and grounds for the objection, not later than 9th January 1998. It is requested that a copy of such objection is sent to West C. P. Wright, Magnox Electric plc, Berkeley Centre, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, GL13 9PB

8th December 1997

Do you have a complaint against this newspaper?

If you have a complaint about any item in this newspaper which concerns inaccuracy, harassment, intrusion or discrimination, write to our editor about it.

If you remain dissatisfied please contact the Press Complaints Commission — an independent organisation established to uphold an editorial Code of Practice for the Press. This newspaper will abide by their decision.

Press Complaints Commission 1 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 6AE Telephone: 0171 353 1248 Fax: 0171 353 8355

This space has been donated by the publisher.

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interim: Baillie Gifford Japan, Cardo Engineering Group, CRT Group, Faupel Trading Group, Highams Systems Services, Jarvis, Jasmin, Marston Thompson & Evershed, Total Systems, Finalec, Alders, API Group, Celltech, Electronic Data Processing, United Drug, Economic statistics: UK October industrial/manufacturing output, UK November PPI.

TOMORROW

Interim: Anglo Group, Berkeley Group, BSS Group, BTP, Drummond Group, Ensor Holdings, Feedstock, Fuller Smith & Turner, Halma, Photoblation Group, Real Time Control, Martin Shelton, VHE Holdings, Finalec, Apollo Metals, Bradstock Group, Compass Group, Holmes & Marston Group, Meritmore Abbey, Hozelock Group, Leeds Group, Vaux Group, Economic statistics: UK BRC November retail sales report, UK November retail price index.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: British Land, HP Bulmer Holdings, Drummond Group, Lint, Powderjet Pharmaceuticals, Scottish Hydro Electric, David S Smith, Tor Investment Trust, Finalec, Airports, Metrolink, Morland, Sage Group, Tilton Holdings, Economic statistics: Bank of England November MPC meeting minutes, Bank of England to auction £2 billion 5.5 per cent 2003 gilt stock.

THURSDAY

Interim: Atlantic Telecom, Harvey Nichols, LucasVarity, Rascal Electronics, Shield Diagnostics, Finalec, Countryside Properties, Galen Holdings, Hunters Army Group, Economic statistics: UK CBI December industrial trends survey.

FRIDAY

Interim: Bant, Braxway, John Swan & Sons, Finalec, Grainger Trust, Economic statistics: No UK data scheduled for release.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy GEC, BBA, Syntner, Hardy Oil & Gas, Culver Holdings, Wiggins, World Telecom, Sell: Parkland, The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Countryside Properties, Cliveden, The Observer: Buy Berisford, Britax, Mail on Sunday: Buy Burnden Leisure, Sell: Jacobs Holdings, Mulberry Group, Express on Sunday: Buy Christian Salvsen, Glynwed International.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL GIBSON

Heavy going at Harvey Nichols

HARVEY NICHOLS: Home to London's army of Sloanes and made famous by Edina and Patsy in *Absolutely Fabulous*, the Knightsbridge department store group has been spreading its tentacles rapidly north in an effort to fuel profits growth.

A new store opened in Leeds earlier this year made an immediate impact, but it remains to be seen if sales can be maintained at their early blistering pace.

Half-year profits, due out on Thursday, are expected to grow from £5.5 million to £6 million with the dividend up from 1.9p to 2p. Full-year figures in June failed to live up to expectations, with start-up costs of £1 million relating to the Oxo Tower restaurant taking the edge off things.

Dickson Poon, chairman, is now on the lookout for other restaurant sites, but admits this may take some time.

COMPASS GROUP: The independent catering services group has completed a steady stream of acquisitions in recent years, creating a pattern of solid earnings growth.

It is unlikely that much will have changed when full-year figures are unveiled tomorrow. The group has set itself a target of 20 per cent earnings growth per annum and these latest figures are unlikely to disappoint.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at about £137.2 million compared with £114.3 million last time, producing earnings a share of 31.1p against 26.5p, a rise of 17 per cent that should prove acceptable.

It will become harder for Compass to maintain this when it must rely on organic growth. The payout is expected to rise from 8.6p to 9.8p.

SCOTTISH HYDRO: Half-year figures on Wednesday will again reflect the effects of low rainfall, needed in hydro generation. Pre-tax profits are set to grow from £61.3 million to £68 million, helped by a growing contribution from its interests south of the



Less than fabulous half-year growth is expected from Dickson Poon at Harvey Nichols

border in England and Wales, where power generation continues to grow.

An increased tax burden is likely to limit the scope for growth in earnings to around 8 per cent at 13.4p. After stripping out the £43 million windfall tax bill, the earnings figure falls to just 2.2p. Results in the second half should be boosted by the new station at Keadby in addition to Seabank and Rocksavage. The

interim dividend should grow from 5.28p to 5.85p net.

RACAL ELECTRONICS: The group has been the subject of bid speculation in recent months, although its share price remains well below its best of the year.

Half-year results, out Thursday, are unlikely to be good enough to enable the price to make up lost ground. Brokers are looking for a downturn in pre-tax

profits of about £14 million, to £5 million, with earnings a share suffering a similar fate, down from 3.8p to 0.9p.

The only bright spot is defence, accounting for almost a third of group sales. The interest charge is expected to grow to £13 million. The dividend will stay at 2.10p.

AIRTOURS: Brokers will be pinning their hopes on some upbeat comments about summer

holiday bookings when the group unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits are expected to show another impressive rise from £86.8 million to between £115 million and £120 million, although earnings growth is likely to be more modest, up 22 per cent at 56p.

UK tour operating profits will be about 40 per cent ahead at £38.5 million, supported by solid demand from Scandinavia. North America will have experienced another difficult period.

Shareholders should be rewarded with a rise in the payout of 25 per cent from 16p to 20p.

LUCASVARITY: Currency translations are likely to have held back the newly merged group's performance in the third quarter, as results on Thursday will show. Pre-tax profits of £85.6 million are expected, which should compare favourably with the pro forma numbers from last year. Earnings a share are calculated at 4.1p. Most of the cost-saving benefits arising from the merger will already have affected margins. There will be no payout this time.

ALLDERS: Another solid performance is expected, later today from a management that remains hungry for further success.

The acquisition of the Owen Owen department store chain will have provided a nice boost to pre-tax profits, which Nick Bubbs, retail analyst at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, pitches at £21 million compared with £11 million. Earnings are set to leap a massive 200 per cent to 18.1p. The dividend will be up 9 per cent at 7.7p.

NFC: The benefits of restructuring should be reflected in full-year figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits should have grown from £85.2 million to between £90 million and £100 million. Earnings should be up by about 11 per cent to 8.1p.

The payout should be pegged at 7.1p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Focus falls on retail price data

A busy week for British economic statistics kicks off today with publication of industrial production figures for October and producer prices data for November.

Industrial production is expected to have grown by 0.3 per cent, according to a consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International, compared with a fall of 0.2 per cent the previous month. Manufacturing output is forecast to have risen by 0.2 per cent, the same increase as in September.

Producer input prices are expected to have fallen by 0.7 per cent in the latest month, leaving input prices down 6.4 per cent over the past year. Output prices are anticipated to have risen by 0.1 per cent in November, leaving them 1.2 per cent higher than a year ago.

Tomorrow, the markets will be focused on retail prices figures for November. The headline rate of inflation is expected to be unchanged from October's level at 3.7 per cent and the underlying rate unchanged at 2.8 per cent. Also published is the British Retail Consortium's latest monthly sales monitor, which is expected to confirm that November retail sales have been very disappointing. Another point of interest tomorrow will be the appearance of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, before the Treasury Select Committee to testify on the Pre-Budget Report.

On Wednesday, attention will turn to the publication of minutes of the November meeting of the monetary policy committee when rates were raised by 1/4 point. Amid speculation that this was a split decision, these minutes are particularly eagerly awaited. On Thursday, the Confederation of British Industry's latest industrial trends survey is published and, on Friday, a two-day summit of European Union leaders begins in Luxembourg.

Among overseas developments that will be of particular interest in the financial markets will be the announcement, expected on Wednesday, of a package of measures to stabilise the Japanese financial system.

On Friday, the Governor of the Bank of Japan is due to make a speech at the Japan Press Centre.

JANET BUSH

Capital funding at record levels

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE world's main capital market raised a record \$1,350 billion of international finance in the first nine months of the year, almost 15 per cent more than the same period last year, according to a new study from the Paris-based organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Of this, more than \$1,000 billion was in securities or fully committed loan facilities, including \$672 billion of bonds and a much more modest \$54 billion of equity, almost as much as for the whole of 1996. Capital raised

over the full year should easily beat last year's \$1,572 billion, the OECD expects, unless Asian financial crises and market volatility virtually stall capital raising activity.

The UK came third over the nine months, raising \$129 billion of international finance, against \$354 billion in the United States and \$167 billion in Germany.

In a special study in *Financial Market Trends*, the OECD shows that institutional funds have come to dominate virtually all stock markets in the industrial

countries and have now become a prerequisite for liquid markets in emerging economies too. Apart from the UK and US, however, institutional funds appear to show little interest in equity shares, the OECD notes.

Total institutional funds in the main OECD areas, which chiefly cover Western Europe, North America, Japan and Australasia, grew from \$3,200 billion, or 38 per cent of combined gross domestic product in 1981, to \$16,300 billion (90 per cent of GDP) in 1991 and to \$24,300 billion (107

per cent of GDP) in 1995. Growth accelerated in 1990-95, with investment companies such as unit trusts and mutual funds growing fastest, at an annual rate of 29 per cent in Canada, 22 per cent in Germany, 19 per cent in the US and 14 per cent in the UK and Italy. Insurance funds expanded at an average annual 10 per cent in France.

By contrast, pension funds grew relatively slowly in the seven leading countries. Only in Asia and the Pacific did annual pension fund growth exceed 10 per cent.

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TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.56	2.58
Austria Sch	21.70	20.04
Belgium Fr	63.83	58.97
Canada \$	2.478	2.288
Cyprus Cyp£	0.805	0.834
Denmark Kr	11.80	10.91
Finland Mk	9.45	8.70
France Fr	10.3	9.54
Germany Dm	3.10	2.86
Greece Dr	498	448
Hong Kong \$	18.81	12.41
Iceland	132	112
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.09
Israel Shk	6.23	5.58
Italy Lira	3080	2820
Japan Yen	229.33	211.80
Malta	0.680	0.621
Netherlands Gld	3.510	3.215
New Zealand \$	2.90	2.68
Norway Kr	12.55	11.61
Portugal Esc	313.03	291.00
S Africa Rd	8.78	7.80
Spain Ptas	258.78	241.00
Sweden Kr	13.74	12.64
Switzerland Fr	2.52	2.31
Turkey Lira	332.73	312.85
USA \$	1.758	1.615

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6563 (-0.0282)
German mark
2.9532 (-0.0179)
Exchange index
104.3 (-0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3279.8 (+144.2)
FTSE 100
5142.9 (+311.1)
New York Dow Jones
8149.13 (+326.00)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
16424.48 (-211.78)

Answers from page 38

SPEY CAST

(a) A special method of withdrawing fishing line and fly made necessary on the River Spey because of the profusion of foliage close to the river. Instead of allowing the line to stream back behind him, the fisherman must by suitable movements cause this to happen sideways.

QUICK FIRING

(b) A piece is said to be quick firing when the means of obturation (preventing gases escaping through breech) is a brass case for propellant. Many large pieces have propellant in bags with "mushroom pad" obturation.

DOUBLE DECLUTCH

(c) Before synchromesh gears were invented, it was necessary, when changing down, to depress the clutch pedal, lift out of gear, release clutch pedal, "blip" engine revs, depress pedal and engage lower gear. I am amazed that anyone ever managed to change down.

ULU

(d) Used in Malaysia to denote either distant but organised locations or territory off the beaten track, where there is wild undergrowth and the occasional nomadic habitation.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Ke4! Kg6 2 Kc3! Kh6 3 Kd3! Kg6 4 Kd2! Kh6 5 Kc2 Kg6 6 Kxb2! and now White will be able to move his bishop from b1, releasing the stalemate possibility, when he will win easily.

Keep our opinions
to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

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The high-tech jobcentre in Brixton Hill, South London, where jobseekers locate opportunities nationwide, using touch-sensitive computer screens

High-tech approach driving delivery of new deal on jobs

The Employment Service outlines a new jobcentre initiative today, says Philip Bassett

Hello? No — yes, WHAT? You'll have to wait! This is the rough end of jobfinding: a harassed official in a London job centre, on the phone and simultaneously trying to deal with the unemployed young woman in front of her. On a chilly grey winter afternoon, the chairs are crowded. One person waiting is asleep. Seven are sitting on the floor. Two squat on the radiator.

Just off London's busiest shopping area, this is the jobcentre in Denmark Street, inconspicuously sited where rock music instrument shops jostle each other for business. In a grimy, yellow-walled jobcentre devoted to catering work, servicing the fast-food and restaurant industries of the West End, a dozen or so people stare at the jobs on the boards. "It's not a question that I'm not willing to work," an early-20s woman is explaining to the official behind the desk. "I'm looking for work. But I have got a right to say I don't want to work in the kind of job I've been doing."

Displayed behind her are some of those jobs — the McJobs of the new flexible labour market. "Brand new contemporary bar opening in Covent Garden — start work from January 5, 1998," says one glowingly, though the reality is a little different from the glamorous rhetoric: "Kitchen assistant... £3.25 an hour."

Opposite shops selling a vintage 1957 Fender Stratocaster guitar for £1,950, and a Gibson Everly acoustic for just £2,195, there's this: "Crew member, fast-food restaurant, locally Circus. £3.60 an hour, 9pm-5am night and early shifts." Or this: "Cook, Shepherd's Bush. Making and cooking pizzas. £3 an hour." Or a part-time waiter in Bond Street, able to speak English and Japanese, all for "£80 per week net".

Today, Gordon Brown will emphasise the Government's commitment to getting people off welfare and into work. In a speech to a TUC conference on Thursday, £2.5 billion New Deal jobs scheme, he will welcome employer support for the programme, such as "Baco's jobs announcement today. But behind the politics of the programme — using windfall tax money from the privatised utilities to cut youth and long-term unemployment — lies the practicality of delivering it. That will fall to the Government's Employment Service, which runs the country's 1,090 jobcentres.

David Blunkett, Employment and Education Secretary, says there is a "new commitment and enthusiasm for a new way of working" in the Employment Service (ES) since the Government announced its New Deal programme, which goes live on January 5 in 12 "pathfinder" areas across Britain.

That new way of working will be set out today when the ES publishes its prospectus for the future — the latest move in a realignment of the service set in motion by Labour's election victory.

The primary role of the ES, which absorbs £1.2 billion in government funding, is to help the unemployed to find work, according to Leigh Lewis, its chief executive. But he adds: "We also have another role, which is concerned with the protection of public funds, ensuring that only those people eligible to receive Jobseeker's Allowance actually do so."

What that has meant in practice in the past is the ES being seen by many unemployed as equivalent to the police: someone who is going to stop you doing things, who is going to bear down hard on you, and clamp down on your benefit. Someone to stay well clear of, as far as is possible.

Senior ES officials acknowledge that many claimants hold this view, privately recognising that much of the policy drive of the Conservative Government was in this direction — though they insist that this approach has been one of the most significant factors in improving labour market flexibility and contributing to the fall in unemployment.

With its support for flexibility, Labour wants to build on that. But it is clear, too, that it wants the ES in particular to switch its focus by becoming much more geared to helping people back into work. "We have to make people want to come into jobcentres, rather than just need to," one senior ES official says.

Some organisations with long experience of dealing with the ES are sceptical that it is capable of making such a radical shift. They doubt its experience in contracting

social security benefits in Britain since 1947, when the Jobseeker's Allowance replaced unemployment benefit.

At the same time, it has spent more than £70 million on a new computer system that finally offers the chance for the unemployed to see vacancies online, from around the country if necessary — a Whitehall holy grail that has eluded governments for more than 20 years.

It has done so quietly and successfully — a far cry from the management chaos and howls of client complaint that afflicted the Child Support Agency, a not dissimilar government body.

The new Labour Market System is on show and in use at Brixton Hill

Jobcentre. Though only a few craft-flying miles from Denmark Street — oddly, a highly effective centre, with good placement figures into local catering — the two could hardly be more different. For a jobcentre, Brixton Hill is warm and welcoming, with splashes of attractive colour and deft spotlighting. New Deal displays are prominent.

Two young women walk to the door, and with the ease of practice, head straight for the LMS stand-alone Siemens Nixdorf terminals. These, with

their touch-sensitive screens, respond immediately to their job choices, guiding them quickly through sector and area selections. A further touch prints out specific job vacancies — vacancies which, unlike many on jobcentre notice boards, are for five jobs, not yet taken by others. They take their choices to an official in the bright open-plan office, and begin to make contact with the firms they have selected.

Francesca Walford, business manager at the jobcentre, which currently has about 2,500 unemployed registered, takes pride in both its efficiency, and its attractiveness — and sees the two as linked: "If the image is 'what a mess', well how are people supposed to have confidence in the advice we're giving?"

She and the centre's 36 staff are bubbling with enthusiasm for the New Deal programme that begins there in a few weeks — advisory staff already hired and being trained, the "Gateway" induction programme up and running, environmental help schemes, such as refurbishing old computers, identified.

Senior ES officials believe that jobcentres like Brixton Hill are the way forward for the service, and the best prospect of delivering the New Deal and subsequent welfare-to-work programmes that are central to the Government's economic and social agenda.

Mr Blunkett is fulsome in his praise. "The speed and enthusiasm with which New Deal is being introduced is a credit to the Employment Service," he says, though ministers and ES officials know that success will be heavily dependent on how far the service manages to make it work.

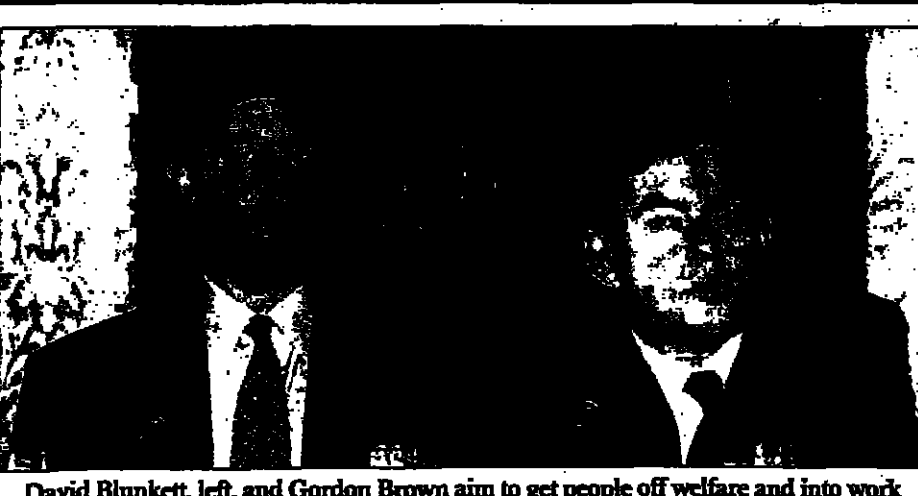
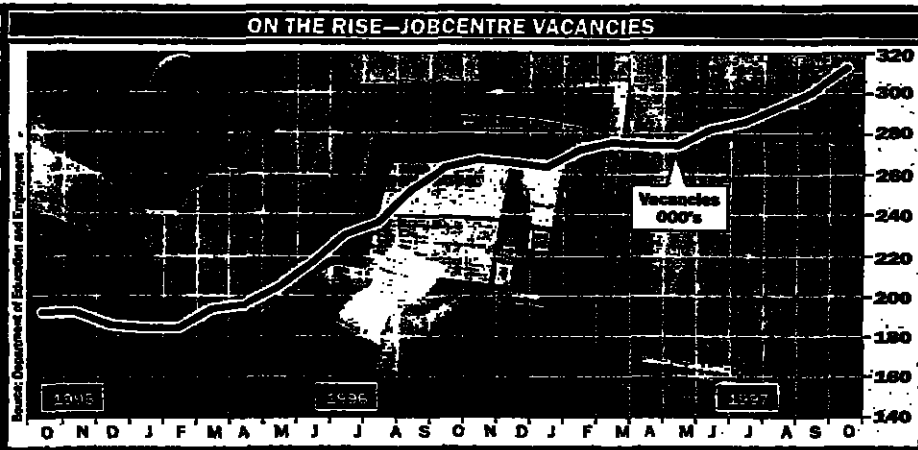
Some local ES managers and services are a deal less good than the best. As one local-level employment specialist puts it of their own local ES: "In our area's ES office if someone turns a fan on, it's the biggest movement they've made all day."

The shifts in the ES over the past year have caused strains: the service overall missed its performance target, managing to place only 1.7 million people into work instead of 2 million.

With falling unemployment, and falling staff numbers — ES manpower totals fall with unemployment, and are now down to about 30,000 — this year's target is lower, at 1.75 million.

Delivering the New Deal will be a further tough challenge for what has traditionally been a rather hidebound arm of government.

But the confidence to do so is there: "People are very positive about the New Deal," says Francesca Walford at Brixton Hill. "They really like it. They want it to work. This is a major investment in the Employment Service — and we want to deliver."



David Blunkett, left, and Gordon Brown aim to get people off welfare and into work

TELEVISION CHOICE

A mural for a prisoner

Date With an Artist
BBC2, 7.30pm

A shared passion for hip hop music brings together the artist Chris Offill and Anthony Ismond, who is doing time for robbery in Wormwood Scrubs. The challenge for Offill is to make a painting for Ismond's cell wall. Offill is no conventional painter. Since he left the Royal College of Art four years ago he has made his name with unorthodox designs incorporating unusual materials. These include elephant droppings, which he collects from London Zoo. But will the blobs of dung get past prison security? On a more cerebral plane the programme features Brad Lochore, whose paintings evoke shadows cast on a white canvas, and Anya Hurlbert, a vision scientist interested in how the eye makes sense of shapes and colours. Lochore warns to the challenge of filling Hurlbert's empty wall.

Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
BBC2, 8.00pm

Dr Phil Hammond is something of a comedian as well as being a medic and it continues to show in this diverting pot-pourri. The content is authoritative enough but a gag is never too long coming, which means that the show probably attracts many people who would otherwise leap for the remote control. Hammond has a new acronym for most of us tonight. It is TUBE and stands for totally unnecessary breast examination. Too many young women are going to the GP for a sore throat or similar complaint, and being told that he wants to look at their breasts as well. A doctor who has been struck off still insists that it is routine medical practice. To which the programme loudly says: no, Dr Phil also brings good news for thinning sufferers (if you're treated) and explains how chilies can ease chronic pain.

Pantoland
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Tonight's backstage peep follows a production of *Mother Goose* in Birmingham. The producers claim it to be Britain's biggest and most lavish pantomime, with costumes and scenery alone costing £300,000. The hoped-for showstopper is a transformation scene in which Matthew Kelly, as



Dr Phil Hammond (BBC2, 8.00pm)

the dame, turns into, of all people, Joanna Lumley in her *AD Fab* guise. A quick change for Kelly is the easy bit. More tricky is the "pool of beauty" which has real fountains spraying real water. At least that is the plan. In the best tradition of showbusiness bitches, the fountains do not work and there is just an hour to curtain up. None of this disconcerts the *Chuckie Brothers*. Because their comedy routine has nothing to do with the plot they can recycle it from panto to panto with only slight modifications.

Immocents Lost
Channel 4, 9.00pm

From Brian Woods and Kate Blewett, who memorably exposed the scandal of Chinese orphanages in *The Dying Rooms*, comes another scathing indictment of the abuse of children. Their two-part documentary draws its examples from several countries and not necessarily the obvious ones. In supposedly civilised Greece, children with disabilities can be consigned to institutions where they get no treatment, are never reassessed and are effectively left to die. The plight of the street children of Latin America is more public but no less distressing. Many turn to glue-sniffing, selling their bodies to pay for it. In Guatemala City a girl describes being raped by a group of police when she was 15. Woods and Blewett also visit a penal colony in the Urals where Russian boys of 14 can be kept up for two years for stealing loose change.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Sir Isaiah Berlin: Historian of Ideas
Radio 3, 7.30pm

The importance of Berlin and the impact of his recent death are illustrated by the fact that Radio 3 is giving over the evening to various aspects of his work. Introduced by Humphrey Carpenter, there are interviews with many of those who knew him and worked with him, including Alfred Brendel, who plays part of the Schubert Piano Concerto in A and talks about his friendship with Berlin. There is also a recording of the final Mellon Lecture which Berlin gave in 1965 under the title *Sources of Romanticism — the Lasting Effects*. Carpenter will be talking to Berlin's literary executor, Henry Hardy, and to various academics about the extent to which Berlin will be understood by generations to come.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Keating and Zoe Ball 8.00am Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley, Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve and Lisa 6.45 Live Music Update with Ewering Smith 8.40 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30am Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Lockwood with Big Band Big and Dingo Band Days 8.00 Big Band Special 10.00 Ray Charles 10.30 Richard Allen 11.00am Simon Mayo 1.00am Neil Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Russco on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Worlock 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Sportscast: Music and sporting highlights from 1997 8.00 The Mooted News: Sheffield Wednesday v Barnsley at Hillsborough 10.00 News Talk with Nick Robinson 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up At Night with Rhod Sharp 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 Chris Evans 10.00 (FM) Robin Barker (AM) Graham Dene 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot (AM) John Home 4.00 Russ 'n' Joni 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Cathrin Jones 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McMillan 9.00 Scott Cleghorn 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Rieback 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Handel (Concerto Grosso in C, Alexander's Feast; *Discoscape* or *Discoscape*) 9.00 Musical Encounters, with Mark Rowlands. Includes Elgar (*Overture Cockaigne*, in London Town), Verdi (*Verdi's Concerto No 2 in D minor*), Wagner (*Alceste*) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Alexander Goehr. Includes Goehr's *Concerto*. See Choice 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Florence Tio 2.00 The BBC Overlook. BBC Philharmonic under Gunther Herbig and Yan Pascal Tortelier, with Kathryn Stott, piano. Mozart (*Symphony No 36 in C*, L'Inch, *Revel* (Piano Concerto in G); Bruckner (*Symphony No 1*) 4.00 Musical Encounters, with Ian Hewitt (i) 4.45 Musical Encounters, with Ian Hewitt (ii) 5.00 In Tune. Susan Rafferty asks various shop owners to reveal the CD they would like for Christmas

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.15 Evening Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.25 Today 6.45 Perhaps, Prime Minister, With Howel James and George Bridges (23) 6.55 Weather 8.00 News 8.05 *Start of the Week*, with the Times columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests 10.00 (FM) News: *Dear Diary* (45) 10.00 (LW) News: *Dear Diary* (45) 10.30 *Woman's Hour*, introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30 *Money Box* Live, with Vincent Duggan 12.00 News: *Yest and Yest*, with Mark Whitaker 12.05 *Woman's Hour* 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (i) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: *What to Give*. The first of three new episodes of Stephen Mulrine's crime series 3.00 News: *The Afternoon Shift*, with Laurie Taylor 4.00 News 4.05 *Kaleidoscope*. Lynne Walker explores Britten's *Paul Bunyan* as a new production by the Royal Opera opens 4.45 *Short Story*: *Outside the House*, by Sue Goo

Composer of the Week: Alexander Goehr
Radio 3, midday

When this strand features composers who are still alive I am always fascinated to see which of their own compositions they choose to highlight, sometimes giving a different idea of what they regard as important as compared with the view of critics. Goehr is heard in conversation with Piers Burton-Page. Goehr was a leading *avant garde* composer 30 and more years ago, when he was established as a leading member of the so-called Manchester School. But he could never really be pinned down in terms of musical style, taking what critics regard as a slightly detached attitude to Modernism in music. Goehr's work ranges from piano pieces through opera to works for theatre and the full range is explored in this interview. Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: The Grass is Singing 7.30 The Vintage Chart Show 8.00 News 8.10 Praise for Thought 8.15 Youth Debate 8.00 News; News in German (9.45 only) 8.05 World Business Today 9.15 Newsday 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsday 10.30 Omnibus 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Jazzmaster 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.25 Seven Days 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Sports Options 3.00 Newsday (8.45 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway Access 3.30 The Ed Stewart Show 4.00 News 4.15 Seven Days 4.30 The World Today (8.45 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.05 Sports Roundup 5.05 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Just a Minute: News in German (6.45 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Praise for Thought 7.30 Maltrunk Ht List 8.00 Newsday 8.05 News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Britain Today 8.30 Northern Lights 10.00 Newsday 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsday 11.45 Outlook 11.30 Maltrunk Ht List 12.00 Newsday 12.05pm Westway 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsday 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Praise for Thought 2.00 Newsday 2.30 News 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 What Do Christians Believe? 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.00 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Harley with the Morning Mail and Breakfast Baroque 8.00 Henry Kelly, includes The Classic Masterpiece, Record of the Week and the Mail of Fame Hour 1.00pm Leisure Request Hour with Jane Jones 2.00 Concerto, Bach Brandenburg Concerto No 1 in D 3.00 Jamie Cullum 2.30 Two in a Row and Three Steps to Seven 6.30 Newsnight 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Bunnell 8.00 Evening Concert (Season on the Waterfront); Kubrick (Inventions and Intellidisc); Strauss (Cello Concerto); Porgy and Bess 12.00 Anniversary of the Death of John of Arc 10.00 Michael MacLeod, includes at 11.25 Nocturne 2.00am Concerto (i) 3.00 Mark Gribble

RADIO 5

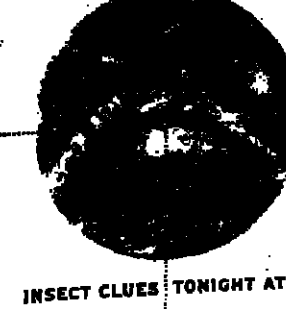
6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Handel (Concerto Grosso in C, Alexander's Feast; *Discoscape* or *Discoscape*) 9.00 Musical Encounters, with Mark Rowlands. Includes Elgar (*Overture Cockaigne*, in London Town), Verdi (*Verdi's Concerto No 2 in D minor*), Wagner (*Alceste*) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Alexander Goehr. Includes Goehr's *Concerto*. See Choice 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Florence Tio 2.00 The BBC Overlook. BBC Philharmonic under Gunther Herbig and Yan Pascal Tortelier, with Kathryn Stott, piano. Mozart (*Symphony No 36 in C*, L'Inch, *Revel* (Piano Concerto in G); Bruckner (*Symphony No 1*) 4.00 Musical Encounters, with Ian Hewitt (i) 4.45 Musical Encounters, with Ian Hewitt (ii) 5.00 In Tune. Susan Rafferty asks various shop owners to reveal the CD they would like for Christmas

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FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.5-99.5. RADIO 2, FM 92.0-92.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.5. LW 185. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 920. WORLD SERVICE, MW 602, LW 185 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.3; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1058, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamee.

TO GET A MURDER CONVICTION THESE DAYS, YOUR STAR WITNESS COULD BE A MAGGOT.



INSECT CLUES TONIGHT AT 10 PM. PART OF 'CRIME CRACKERS' EVERY NIGHT THIS WEEK.

مكdam النحل

Discovery
Channel
what's really happening

Portrait of a lady in an unconvincing pose

Anybody who didn't know who Helen Mirren was supposed to be in *Painted Lady* (TV) last night probably was around for the 1960s and just couldn't remember. Either that, or they hadn't been watching *Brit Girls* (Marianne, Channel 4, Saturday), when Marianne Faithfull popped up looking so like Mirren it was uncanny.

Anyway, there they both were, two great survivors — one happily discussing Mick, motorbikes and Mars bars and getting it all over in an enjoyable half-hour; the other unhappily showing that even the very best can pick a bad some-times and that, by some curious universal law, it nearly always turns out to be a four-hour, television mini-series.

Mirren was playing Maggie Sheridan, an ageing rock-singer now living in genteel poverty in Ireland, surrounded by vivid memories and supported by the

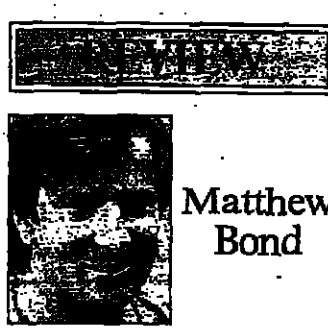
munificence of the Stafford family, the kindly but equally impoverished local gentry. They rescued her from living rough in New York a decade ago, she tells a visiting policeman, and got her through rehab. I winced. I'm nervous of dramas where peripheral characters have been through rehab.

Now, about these Staffords. Sebastian, the son, is a pretty, gay, drug-user who owes £60,000, to one of Dublin's nastier drug dealers. His father, Sir Charles, had resolved to do something about it by arranging for some of his paintings to be stolen but only after taking the precaution of insuring them... for £60,000. Then one of the robbers accidentally shot him dead. Hence the visiting policeman.

All this became first very unclear and then clear-as-can-be in the space of the opening half-hour. Finally, unfortunately, left Alan Cribbins, the writer, with three

and-a-half hours to fill. Perhaps he panicked (who knows?), but for one reason or another he chose to fill it with a story-line so convoluted and improbable that the characters keep having to stop and explain it to each other.

Only one painting, it turned out, was stolen and that, naturally, turned out to be a long-lost Old Master. We know that because, conveniently, Maggie's younger sister (Lesley Manville) is an art expert and her husband (Michael Maloney) is an art dealer. So Maggie resolved to become an art dealer herself (as you do), buying the painting back from the thieves and selling it for huge sums to restore the Stafford family fortunes. Her brother-in-law thought this a very bad idea, but was talked round with astonishing ease and within minutes had furnished her with piles of cash (to pay for a tacky musical



Matthew Bond

transformation scene in which kohl and henna were swapped for mascara and highlights), a London flat and instructions such as "only to go up to \$3.3 million for the Goya". Think I'll become an art dealer, too.

So far, so ridiculous. By the end of part one, Sebastian was dangling from the ceiling in his knickers, having apparently walked into an gay sex-killer sub-

plot that nobody can have been expecting: Maggie was about to meet somebody behind one of those fashionable, glass-brick walls that Tessa Wall keeps going on about in *Home Front*. Part two, tonight, is only for those convinced that Mirren can do no wrong and for annoying people who have done all their Christmas cards.

Debt and drugs were two of the themes explored in *Bumping the Odds* (BBC2), a film apparently considered so Scottish that it couldn't be shown until 10.15pm, after a repeat of an old *Horizon*. The accents, it has to be said, did take a bit of getting used to.

The subject matter, however, did not. Poverty, debt, drugs, alcohol, violence, the complete absence of hope — the problem that Scottish film-makers currently face is that, post-*Trainspotting*, this sort of urban despair is going to become a cliché with a wider audience long before anything comes along to

replace it. But at least it was authentic-looking cliché.

This variation involved the friendship between Lynette (Shirley Henderson), a somewhat improbable young mother of two, and Terry (Sharon Small), whose provocative dialogue ("men are for shags, friends are for life") and tousled hair-do suggested a deep-rooted desire to be Anna from *This Life* when she grew up.

Into this walked Joe McFadden, whose boyish good looks did so much for *The Crow Road* but here were designed to throw you off the scent. He arrived bearing gifts (a new washing machine) and the promise of a happy ending. But in a Glasgow film without Bill Paterson? Not a chance. He had borrowed the money from the ruthless loan shark whose minions slit women's cheeks for fun and with whom Terry was secretly sleeping.

Depressed? I was, long before Andy had to do what an Andy had to do.

That's the drugs and rock 'n' roll out of the way, all we needed now for the weekend to be complete was some sex. Experience has shown that by now we should not have expected too much from the final part of *Tom Jones* (BBC1), a series which has been stylishly bold and enjoyably energetic, but the least sexy period romp I can remember. Experience was right.

That just left *Storyville: Naughty Boy* (BBC2), the story of Ole Ege, a retired Danish pornographer who could easily have been invented by *The Fast Show*. This implausible Danish-made documentary positively bulged with rude images, but only after they had been treated with every computerised special effect you can find in a modern editing suite. Too much of this, I quickly realised, really would you make go blind.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (3021)
 - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (145779)
 - 9.00am Good Living (1352330)
 - 9.25am Style Challenge From the Clothes Show Live (1348137)
 - 9.50am Killy (1208427)
 - 10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (11853382)
 - 10.55am The Really Useful Show (11853389)
 - 11.35am Change That (3071717)
 - 12.00am News (118533224)
 - 12.05pm Call My Bluff (1206717)
 - 12.35pm Give Us A Clue (5479205)
 - 1.00pm News (118533886)
 - 1.30pm Regional News (17548446)
 - 1.40pm The Weather Show (36442205)
 - 1.45pm Neighbours (114633480)
 - 2.10pm Petrol (1140750)
 - 3.00pm Vets' School The progress of seven final-year students at Bristol University's veterinary training school (11853395)
 - 3.30pm Playdays (7805514) 3.50pm Enchanted Lands (8375243) 4.00pm Road Darts Revolving Recipes (7805934) 4.15pm Noel's Island (3419601) 4.40pm Goodnight (8340137) 5.00pm Newsround (11739755) 5.10pm Blue Peter (11849483)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (11178243)
 - 6.00pm News (118533886)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (118533886)
 - 7.00pm This is Your Life Michael Aspel invites another unsuspecting personality to take a trip down memory lane (11040)
 - 7.30pm Here and Now Juliet Morris and the team introduce the magazine live from Manchester (118533886)
 - 8.00pm EastEnders Simon resolves attention from an unexpected source; Frank sticks his nose into Ricky and Bianca's affairs (110788)
 - 8.30pm Spark Ashley teams a valuable lesson while attempting to shake off the unwanted attentions of married man-eater Ursula (118533886)
 - 9.00pm News (118533886)
 - 9.30pm Hotel A military reunion checks into the Adelphi, and it isn't long before manager Elaine Downey is coping with three retired soldiers stuck in a lift (111137)
 - 10.00pm Panorama In-depth reports on topical issues (11849483)
 - 10.40pm On Side John Inverdale meets Alan Hansen, Jackie Stewart, Jeremy Clarkson and Jonathan Lomu. Last in series (118533886)
 - 11.30pm Film '97 with Barry Norman Review of the latest James Bond movie Tomorrow Never Dies, with Pierce Brosnan making his second appearance as Bond. Tom Brook interviews director Oliver Stone about U-Turn, a black comedy starring Sean Penn (118533886)
 - 12.00pm The Sunlight Boys (1975) George Burns stars in an Oscar-winning role with Walter Matthau, playing a former vaudeville double act who reunites for a television special. Directed by Herbert Ross (304793)
 - 1.45am Weather (7486625)
 - 1.50am BBC News 24
- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode**
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus+ numbers. To find out more about the VideoPlus+ system, visit the VideoPlus+ website at www.videoplus.com. The VideoPlus+ logo is a trademark of the VideoPlus+ system.

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Education: Emma (87330) 8.30pm Changing the Mood (16779)
 - 7.00pm News Breakfast News (118533886)
 - 7.15pm Teletubbies (12588514) 7.40pm Penelope Pitop (118533886) 8.05pm Blue Peter (118533886) 8.25pm Junior Jungle (118533886) 8.35pm Orville and Cuddles (118533886) 8.45pm Harry and the Hendersons (118533886) 9.10pm The Fugitive (118533886) 10.00pm Teletubbies (118533886)
 - 10.30pm The Female Touch (1941) b/w Comedy with Don Amico and Rosalind Russell. Directed by W. S. van Dyke II (118533886)
 - 12.05pm The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (118533886) 12.30pm Working Lunch (22243) 1.00pm The Greasy Spots Gang (118533886) 1.05pm Hairy Jeremy (118533886) 1.10pm The History Hour (118533886) 2.10pm Going, Going, Gong (118533886) 2.40pm News (118533886) 2.45pm Situation Vacant (118533886) 3.25pm News (118533886) 3.30pm The Village (118533886)
 - 4.00pm Ready Steady Cook (392) 4.30pm Through the Keyhole (118533886) 4.55pm Easter (118533886) 5.30pm Today's the Day (118533886)
 - 6.00pm The Simpsons (118533886)
 - 6.20pm Ballerina Galactica (118533886)
 - 7.10pm A Woman Called Smith A 92-year-old remembers her life (118533886)
 - 7.20pm Human Rights, Human Wrongs Joanna Lumley presents the first in a new series (118533886)
 - 7.30pm A Date with an Artist Brad Pitt and his friends create new work in response to individuals and their environment (118533886)
 - 8.00pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor Chronic pain treated with a cream based on chilies; trillium (118533886)
 - 8.30pm Land of the Tiger A trek across the Great Indian Desert (118533886)
 - 9.20pm Human Rights, Human Wrongs (118533886)
 - 9.30pm Never Mind the Buzzcocks (118533886)
 - 10.00pm I'm Alan Partridge Last in series (118533886)
 - 10.15pm News (118533886)
 - 11.15pm Weather (288224)
 - 11.55pm The Midnight Hour (118533886)
 - 12.00am Learning Zone: Russell Grant (118533886) 12.45pm Outside in a Muslim in Europe (118533886) 1.35pm Poland (118533886) 2.00pm Art and Craft of Movie Making (118533886) 4.00pm Greek Language and People (118533886) 5.25pm Creative Management (118533886)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (2854088)
 - 9.25pm Supermarket Sweep (118533886)
 - 9.55pm Regional News (118533886)
 - 10.00pm The Time, the Place (7885)
 - 10.30pm This Morning (118533886)
 - 12.20pm Regional News (118533886)
 - 12.30pm News (118533886)
 - 12.55pm The Fashion Police (118533886) 1.25pm Home and Away (118533886) 1.50pm Countdown to Christmas (118533886) 2.20pm Murder, She Wrote (118533886)
 - 3.20pm News (118533886)
 - 3.25pm Regional News and weather (118533886)
 - 3.30pm Tots TV (2228855) 3.40pm The Snow Norrie (118533886) 3.50pm Snow White — a Wolves, Witches and Giants Christmas Special (2228855) 4.05pm Scooby and Co (3491205) 4.25pm Men in Black (118533886) 4.50pm How 2 (118533886)
 - 5.10pm WALES: The House Transforming a derelict Victorian house into a home for the 21st century (118533886)
 - 5.10pm Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (118533886)
 - 5.40pm News (118533886)
 - 6.00pm Home and Away (118533886)
 - 6.25pm HTV Weather (208917)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (118533886)
 - 6.55pm HTV CrimeStoppers (503327)
 - 7.00pm Talking Telephone Numbers with Philip Schofield (3408)
 - 7.30pm Coronation Street Fred is on hand when Liz gets into trouble, and Natalie's suspicions are confirmed (118533886)
 - 8.00pm Mind the Baby, Mr Bean Mr Bean, aka Rowan Atkinson, is left in charge of a baby at a funeral — a recipe for disaster (118533886)
 - 8.30pm Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich (118533886)
 - 9.00pm Painted Lady (22) Murder mystery began yesterday. Sir Charles is brutally murdered and a valuable 16th-century painting is stolen. Maggie sets out tracking down the missing artwork, but finds herself in danger. Continues after the News (118533886)
 - 10.00pm News at Ten (118533886)
 - 10.30pm Regional News and weather (118533886)
 - 10.40pm Painted Lady Conclusion (118533886)
 - 11.40pm WALES: B&H Ice Hockey Cup Final: Cardiff Devils v Ayr Scottish Eagles (118533886)
 - 11.40pm Highlander (118533886)
 - 12.00am Football Extra (118533886)
 - 1.40pm War of the Worlds (118533886)
 - 2.35pm Rockmanna (118533886)
 - 3.30pm ITV at the Belfast Festival (28544)
 - 4.00pm Minding Contact (118533886)
 - 5.00pm Coronation Street (118533886)
 - 5.30pm News (118533886)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25pm A Country Practice (5473021)
 - 2.30-3.20pm Blue Heelers (118533886)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (118533886)
 - 6.25-7.00pm Central News (118533886)
 - 11.40pm Charlie Grace (118533886)
 - 1.40pm Late and Loud (118533886)
 - 2.35pm Central Jobfinder (118533886)
 - 4.50pm Eastern Mix (118533886)
 - 5.20pm Asian Eye (118533886)
 - As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25pm Shortland Street (5473021)
 - 2.30-3.20pm Blue Heelers (118533886)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (118533886)
 - 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (118533886)
 - 6.30-7.00pm Perfectly Pats (118533886)
 - 11.40pm The Golf Show (118533886)
 - 12.10pm Meridian Motorsport (118533886)
 - As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25pm What's My Line? (5473021)
 - 2.25-3.20pm Blue Heelers (118533886)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (118533886)
 - 6.25-7.00pm Anglia News (118533886)
 - 11.40pm Videotech Special (118533886)
 - Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (118533886)
 - 9.00pm Something So Right (118533886)
 - 9.30pm Film: You Were Meant for Me (118533886)
 - 11.10pm High Sign (118533886)
 - 11.30pm The Trouble with Kids (118533886)
 - 12.00pm Right to Reply (118533886)
 - 12.30pm Montel Williams (118533886)
 - 1.00pm Slot Machine (118533886)
 - 1.15pm MIM (118533886)
 - 1.30pm Against Nature (118533886)
 - 2.30pm Raging Planet (118533886)
 - 3.30pm Collectors' Lot (118533886)
 - 4.00pm Fifteen-a-One (118533886)
 - 4.30pm Contrane's Planes and Automobiles (118533886)
 - 5.00pm S Pump (118533886)
 - 5.15pm Pelli (118533886)
 - 5.30pm Countdown (118533886)
 - 6.00pm Newyddion (118533886)
 - 6.10pm Heno (118533886)
 - 7.00pm Pabot y Cwm (118533886)
 - 7.25pm Y Byd Ar Beddar (118533886)
 - 8.00pm Rhyw Fath o Ffwrdd (118533886)
 - 8.30pm Newyddion (118533886)
 - 9.00pm Cutting Edge (118533886)
 - 10.00pm Scorio (118533886)
 - 11.00pm The Real Holiday Show (118533886)
 - 11.35pm The American Football Big Match (118533886)
 - 12.00am Arthouse (118533886)
 - 1.50-2.50pm Tricky Live (118533886)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 5.55am Sesame Street (118533886)
 - 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (118533886)
 - 9.00pm Something So Right (118533886)
 - 9.30pm You Were Meant for Me (118533886) b/w with Dan Dailly and Jeanne Crain. A musical about a band leader and his wife whose career is stalled by the Wall Street Crash. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (118533886)
 - 11.10pm High Sign (b/w). A 1920 Buster Keaton short (118533886)
 - 11.30pm The Trouble with Kids The first of five programmes following four families experiencing problems with their offspring (118533886) 12.00pm Sesame Street (118533886) 12.30pm Light Lunch (118533886) 1.30pm Earthscape (118533886)
 - 1.35pm The Last Winter (118533886) with David Ferry. The story of a young man's acceptance of the end of childhood. Directed by Aaron Kim Johnston (118533886)
 - 3.30pm Collectors' Lot This week, from Otley Hall, Suffolk, featuring the Beverly Sisters' cushion collection (118533886) 4.00pm Fifteen-a-One (118533886) 4.30pm Countdown (118533886) 4.55pm Montel Williams (118533886) 5.30pm Pet Rescue (118533886)
 - 6.00pm Home Improvement Tim and Mark fall out (118533886)
 - 6.30pm Hollyoaks Teen soap (118533886)
 - 7.00pm Channel 4 News (118533886)
 - 7.55pm Innocents Gained The first of four daily programmes featuring letters from British children to the leaders of countries exposed in *Innocents Lost* (see 9pm) (118533886)
 - 8.00pm Movers and Shakers: Strike Lucky Indoor games: Asian boardgame *Go* which has close links with snooker (118533886) (118533886)
 - 8.30pm Pantoland A series looking at the pleasures and pains in the world of pantomime. Tonight, a production of *Mother Goose* with Matthew Kelly (118533886) (118533886)
 - Guatemalan street child (9.00pm)
 - 9.00pm Innocents Lost: Dying Rooms A two-part documentary exposing the abuses against children (118533886) (118533886)
 - 10.00pm Cracker Fitz is still on the trail of the murderers Tina and Sean (2/3) (118533886) (118533886)
 - 11.05pm Armstrong and Miller (118533886) (118533886)
 - 11.35pm The American Football Big Match (118533886) (118533886)
 - 12.55pm Trans World Sport (118533886) (118533886)
 - 1.55pm Football Italia (118533886) (118533886)
 - 3.10pm Springfield A drama about life on a Liverpool housing estate (118533886) (118533886)
 - 4.35pm Colonel Cliftonham's Raid (118533886) (118533886)
 - 5.00pm Starting Chances A comedy about a retired army officer crusading against corrupt local politicians. Directed by Irving Pichel (118533886) (118533886)
 - 5.50pm Terrytoons (118533886) (118533886)

- CHANNEL 5**
- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 83 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocast decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 83 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
 - 6.00am 5 News Early (118533886)
 - 7.30pm Milkshake! (118533886) 7.35pm Kablam! (118533886) 8.00pm Havaikazo (118533886) (118533886)
 - 8.30pm WideWorld Documentary series about the Victorians (118533886) (118533886)
 - 9.00pm Espresso (118533886) 10.00pm Exclusive (118533886) 10.30pm Pole Stars (118533886) (118533886)
 - 11.00pm Lanza (118533886) 11.50pm Double Espresso (118533886) 12.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (118533886) 12.30pm Family Affairs (118533886) (118533886)
 - 1.00pm 5 News Update (118533886) 1.05pm Sunset Beach (118533886) 2.00pm 5's Company. Live entertainment show (118533886) (118533886)
 - 3.30pm Ice Prawn (118533886) with Paul Cross and Dan Haggan. Drama set in the world of ice skating. Directed by Barry Samson (118533886) (118533886)
 - 5.20pm 5's Company — Late Extra (118533886) (118533886)
 - 5.30pm Whistle Audience participation quiz show (118533886) (118533886)
 - 6.00pm 100 Per Cent The game show without a host (118533886) (118533886)
 - 6.30pm Family Affairs Chris is frustrated by Annie's sex bar (118533886) (118533886)
 - 7.00pm Exclusive Includes a look at the trend for celebrities releasing their own lines of designer clothes (118533886) (118533886)
 - 7.30pm Animal Outposts The different species of seabird that live around the Galapagos Islands (118533886) (118533886)
 - 8.00pm Period Rooms In Newcastle, the contestants try to recreate an 1880s farmhouse kitchen (118533886) (118533886)
 - 8.30pm 5 News (118533886) (118533886)
 - Thaw and Waterman (9.00pm)
 - 9.00pm The Sweeney: Money, Money, Money A pools winner becomes the victim of blackmail. Vintage Flying Squad drama series with John Thaw and Dennis Waterman (118533886) (118533886)
 - 10.00pm The Comedy Network A showcase for British comedians (118533886) (118533886)
 - 10.30pm Tib and Fibs Irreverent medical quiz (118533886) (118533886)
 - 11.00pm The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (118533886) (118533886)
 - 11.45pm Prisoner: Call Block H (118533886) (118533886)
 - 12.45pm Live and Dangerous Sports magazine (118533886) (118533886)
 - 3.45pm Asian Football Show (118533886) (118533886)
 - 4.35pm The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series (118533886) (118533886)
 - 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (118533886) (118533886)

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
- SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Glory (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00am Days of Our Lives (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 1.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 2.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 3.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 4.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 5.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 6.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 7.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 9.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 10.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 2**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 3**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 4**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 5**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 6**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 7**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 8**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 9**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 10**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 11**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 12**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 13**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 14**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 15**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 16**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 17**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 18**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 19**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 20**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 21**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 22**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 23**
- 6.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 8.00am The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 11.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886) 12.00pm The Day of the Jackal (118533886)
- SKY 24**
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COMPANIES 44

Growth not so absolutely fab at Harvey Nichols

BUSINESS

TIMELY 45

Roger Bootle proffers a euro for our thoughts



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY DECEMBER 8 1997

UK engines could drive French Toyota plant



The Toyota Fun Coupé is built for life on city roads

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

MILLIONS of pounds worth of investment could still be rescued for Britain despite the announcement expected from Toyota tomorrow that it will build a new car plant in France. The plant will need up to 100,000 engines a year, which could be supplied from Toyota's plant at Deeside, North Wales.

That would mean more jobs and big investment for Deeside, which had its capacity doubled by the Japanese this year. Handling Deeside the main supply contract would compensate Britain for the loss of the £350 million investment expected to go to France.

Toyota would still not confirm its decision last night but a formal announcement is expected tomorrow morning after leaks from French government officials last week.

First reaction was that Toyota's main European manufacturing site at Burnaston in Derbyshire had been snubbed by company executives in Japan. Burnaston builds the Corolla and Avenis models.

British management wanted to make a third model, a small city car, and bid fiercely for the investment to add to £1.1 billion worth already spent in Britain. But the car would be a 1-litre to 1.3-litre model almost entirely for sale on the Continent, where small cars account for up to half of all sales. It is thought Toyota

Tesco to offer 1,500 jobs under New Deal

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TESCO, the supermarket chain, today gives the Government's Welfare to Work New Deal jobs programme its biggest business boost by offering up to 1,500 jobs to young people on the scheme.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will welcome Tesco's move, which also offers free training to young people taken on by small shopkeepers based near Tesco stores.

Although the £2.5 billion jobs programme is attracting widespread business backing from a range of companies, including Marks & Spencer, Ford and J Sainsbury, Tesco's announcement is the single largest company decision to support the scheme.

The New Deal programme aims to get 250,000 young people off welfare and into one of four options — a job, full-time education or training, working in the voluntary sector or on the Government's environmental task force.

The New Deal pilots start on January 5 in 12 areas around the country. Tesco will begin recruiting young people in its head office, two depots and 16 stores within two of the "pathfinder" areas.

French sale, page 45
High-tech deal, page 46

Generators pressed to help save pits

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is preparing to strike deals on energy policy with the electricity generators in a bid to save the coal industry.

In the past few days it has made top-level approaches to the three main generators urging them to increase coal stockpiles and do everything else in their power to boost the market for UK coal.

In return the generators are demanding greater security for their market and for indications about their future during reviews on regulation and the trading of electricity.

The Government is thought to be receptive to giving National Power, PowerGen and Eastern Electricity incentives to turn coal such as room to develop through integration in the UK market and guarantees that their position will not be further threatened by forced sales of power stations. Ministers are understood to be willing to include public policy and competition considerations to draft an overarching framework for energy.

A senior Labour source said: "We are getting to the point of having an energy policy. Before the coal crisis our policy was that we didn't have a policy but now the

semblance of a balanced energy policy is being put together." He said an action plan, largely drafted by Richard Caborn, Minister for the Regions, was being implemented. The survival plan for coal has been envisaged as medium term, but the generators are under pressure to engineer a short-term fix to head off colliery closures.

The Government's approach to the generators for help to alleviate the coal crisis could trigger further tenderings for millions of tonnes of coal. The generators realise they are the key to the crisis, short of government subsidies or purchases, and will maximise their bargaining position before ordering.

RJB Mining, the biggest producer, faces the direct threat of closing pits if a ten-million tonne shortfall in contracts is not bridged with fresh orders. This week RJB meets with PowerGen, which has not placed an order for RJB coal for after March 31 when the present contracts expire.

National Power could place further orders with RJB in the near future. It has already said that it may be looking for a little more coal and now faces government pressure to place orders at home rather than buy imported stocks. RJB said yesterday that it was trying to compete with the price of imported coal.

The Industry Minister in charge of energy, announced the moratorium on gas-fired stations to the Trade and Industry Select Committee while his written evidence to its inquiry — faxed the previous day — said a moratorium was "not directly relevant" and case-by-case considerations would continue.

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John Monks, left, TUC General Secretary, and Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, are at odds on union recognition

Ministers back CBI over unions

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is backing big business against the trade unions over a key issue of the Government's White Paper on fairness at work, to be published early next year.

The agreement, details of which were disclosed by *The Times* last month, follows talks between the CBI and the TUC, after Mr Blair asked them to narrow the gap between business and unions over Labour's plan for statutory recognition of unions for collective bargaining.

The CBI and the TUC have been unable to agree on some issues, including the definition of a bargaining unit, and the "relevant" workforce to be

reached over union recognition. This will form the spine of the Government's White Paper on fairness at work, to be published early next year.

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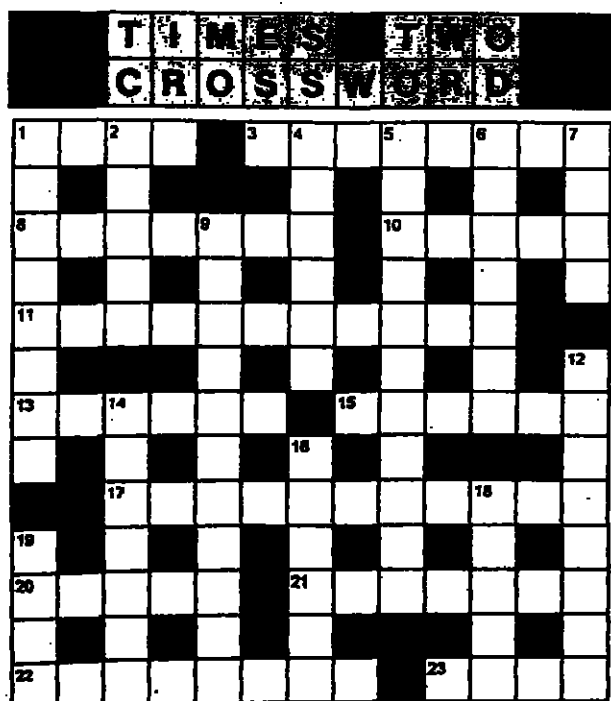
This week in THE TIMES

■ Tomorrow
Julian Lee's weekly marketing column

■ Wednesday
Adam Jones on plans for the world's biggest plane



■ Thursday
Bronwen Maddox, above, with her American Agenda



No 1271

ACROSS

- 1 Broken cloud; cause great pain (4)
- 3 Sort of heck; a blade (8)
- 8 *Canterbury Tales* poet (7)
- 10 Jostle; a boat (5)
- 11 Friendly group spirit (11)
- 13 Give a job to (5)
- 15 Big businessman (6)
- 17 *Dinosaur* "bird" (11)
- 20 Turn of spirit; fingerprint pattern (5)
- 21 *Hobbit* author (7)
- 22 Model instance (8)
- 23 Indecent (4)

DOWN

- 1 (Bullet) rebound (8)
- 2 Magic object; allure (5)
- 4 Angry outburst (6)
- 5 Do what you like here (7,4)
- 6 Submarine weapon (7)
- 7 Unrestricted; undecided (4)
- 9 Show disdain (4,4,3)
- 12 At an angle; tending (8)
- 14 Am. Indian baby (7)
- 16 Antonio's lawyer (in disguise) (M of V) (6)
- 18 String; cord (5)
- 19 Affectingly sweet (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1270

- ACROSS: 1 Go for broke 8 Laundry 9 Niece 10 Hints 11 Whenever 13 Hyena 14 Scold 16 Cut it out 17 Beam 20 Lethe 21 Balfour 22 Unfriendly
- DOWN: 1 Gulch 2 Fourth estate 3 Ride 4 Rhythm 5 Kindness 6 Leave one cold 7 See red 12 Pantheon 13 Heckle 15 Lumber 18 Marry 19 Slew

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